

Dynamics of volcano-hydrothermal systems

Shaul Hurwitz - USGS - Menlo Park



**Hydrothermal explosion in Biscuit Basin,
Yellowstone NP - May 17, 2009**

Photo: Wade Johnson, UNAVCO

Why study hydrothermal systems?

Hazards

- Hydrothermal explosions
- Water saturated, hydrothermally altered rocks increase the potential for catastrophic sector collapses and destructive lahars
- Source of toxic gases and dissolved metals



**Poas Crater Lake,
Costa Rica
25 February 2014**

Photo: Smithsonian GVP

Why study hydrothermal systems?

Resources

- Geothermal energy
- Mineral deposits

The Geysers geothermal field with a production of ~ 1 GW



Bingham Canyon Mine, Utah

Produced >19 million tons of copper, more than any other mine

Why study hydrothermal systems?

Life at High Temperatures

Thomas D. Brock¹

+ See all authors and affiliations

Science 24 Nov 1967:

Vol. 158, Issue 3804, pp. 1012-1019

DOI: 10.1126/science.158.3804.1012

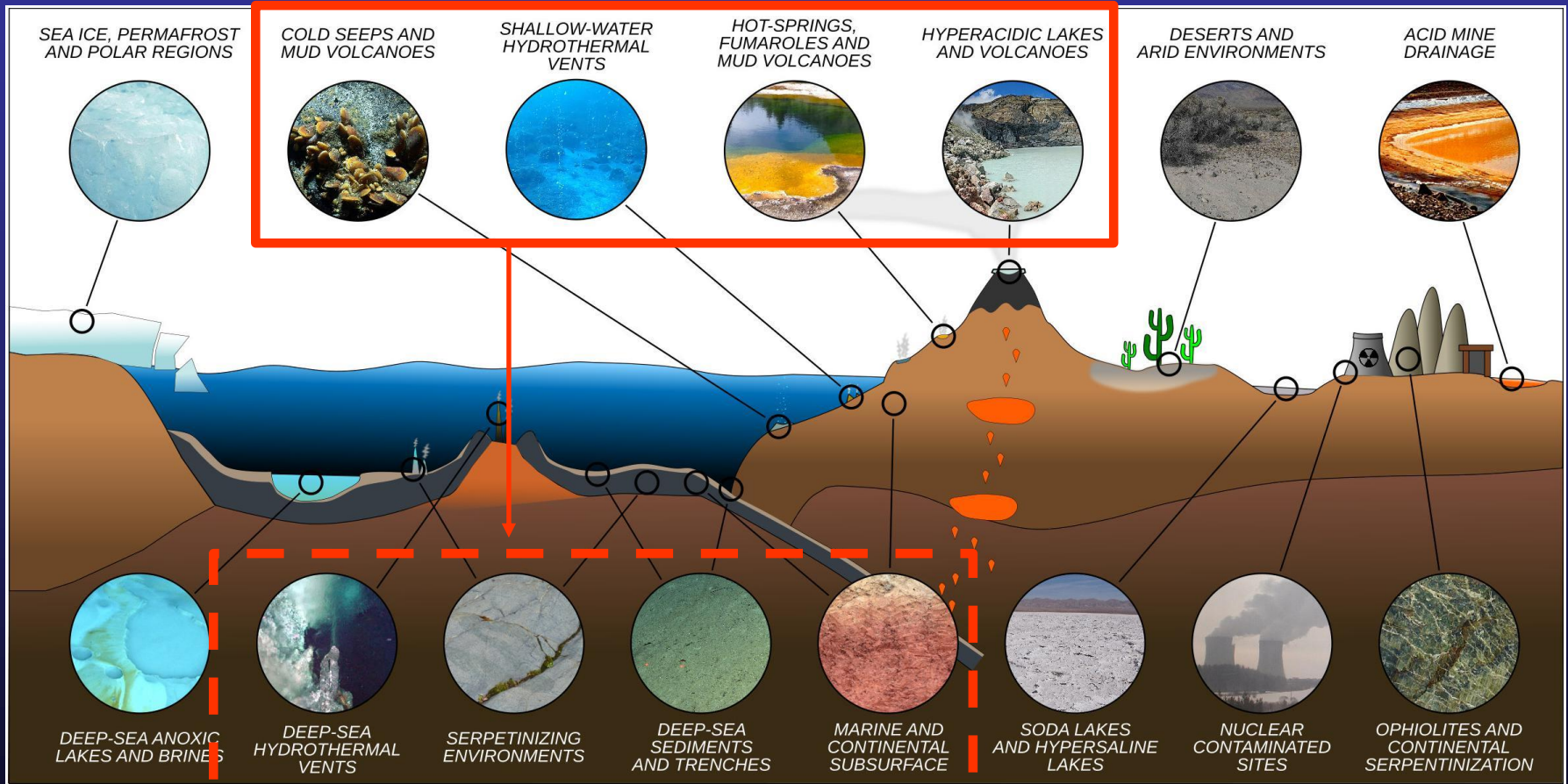


Mushroom Pool, Yellowstone

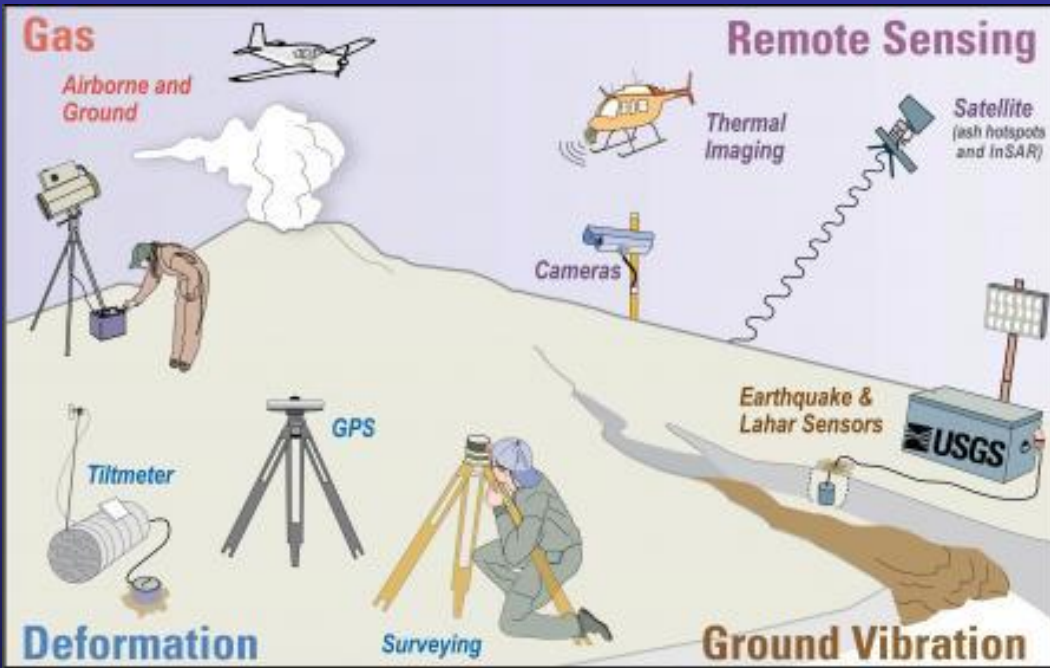
- The thermophile bacteria *Thermus aquaticus* isolated in Yellowstone led to the invention of **PCR** (polymerase chain reaction) that utilizes its heat-resistant enzyme to speed up DNA replication
- This discovery helped create the field of biotechnology and the **onset of the pharmaceutical industry**

Why study hydrothermal systems?

Analogues for extraterrestrial life



Do signals measured at the surface have magmatic or hydrothermal origins?



Many seismic, geodetic and geochemical signals have **hydrothermal origins**, or have magmatic origins that are **modulated** by the hydrothermal system

Opinion piece

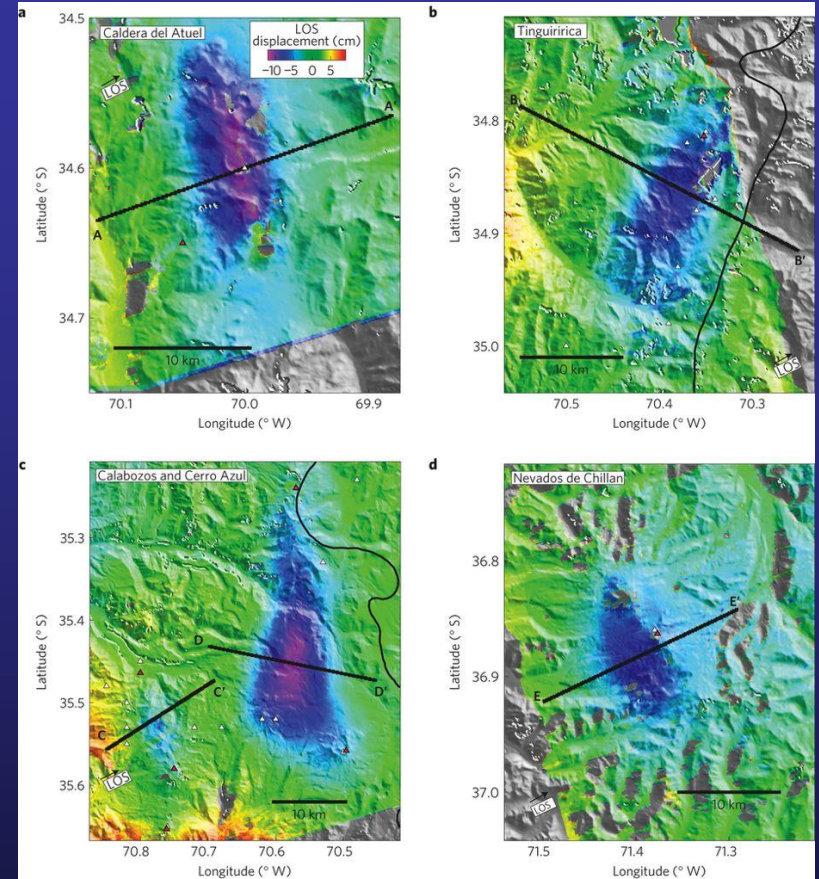
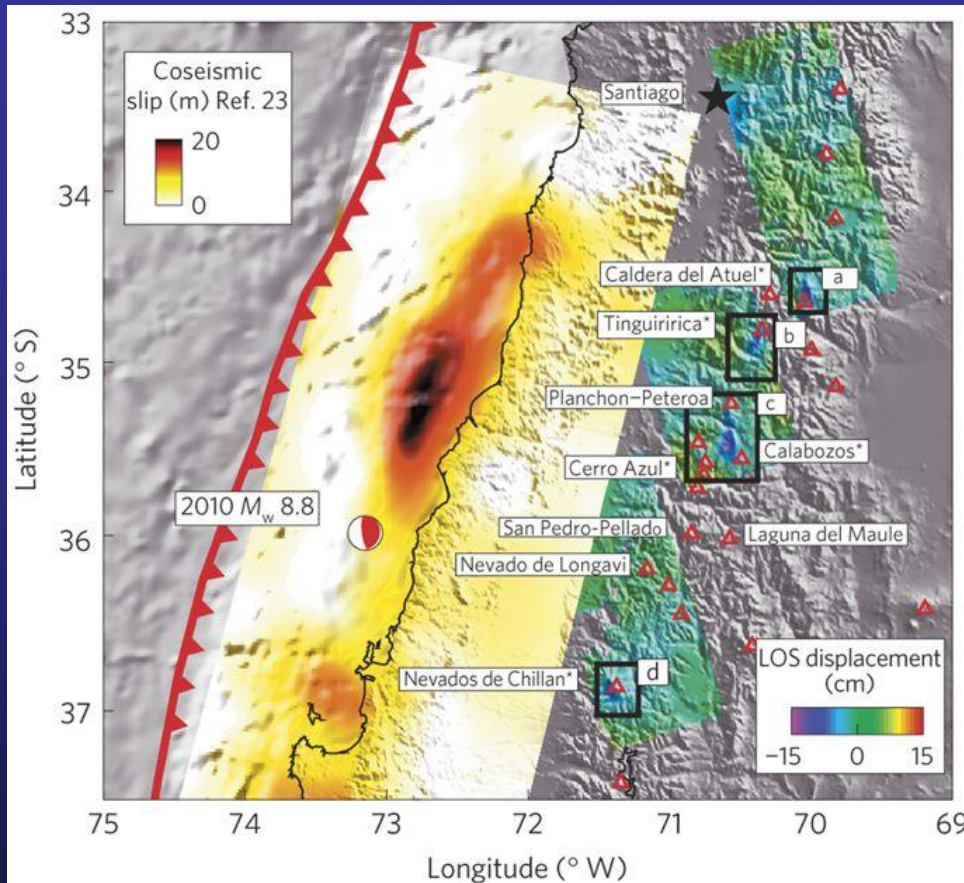
Phil. Transac. Royal Society

Thoughts on the criteria to determine the origin of volcanic unrest as magmatic or non-magmatic

M. E. Pritchard, T. A. Mather, S. R. McNutt, F. J. Delgado and K. Reath

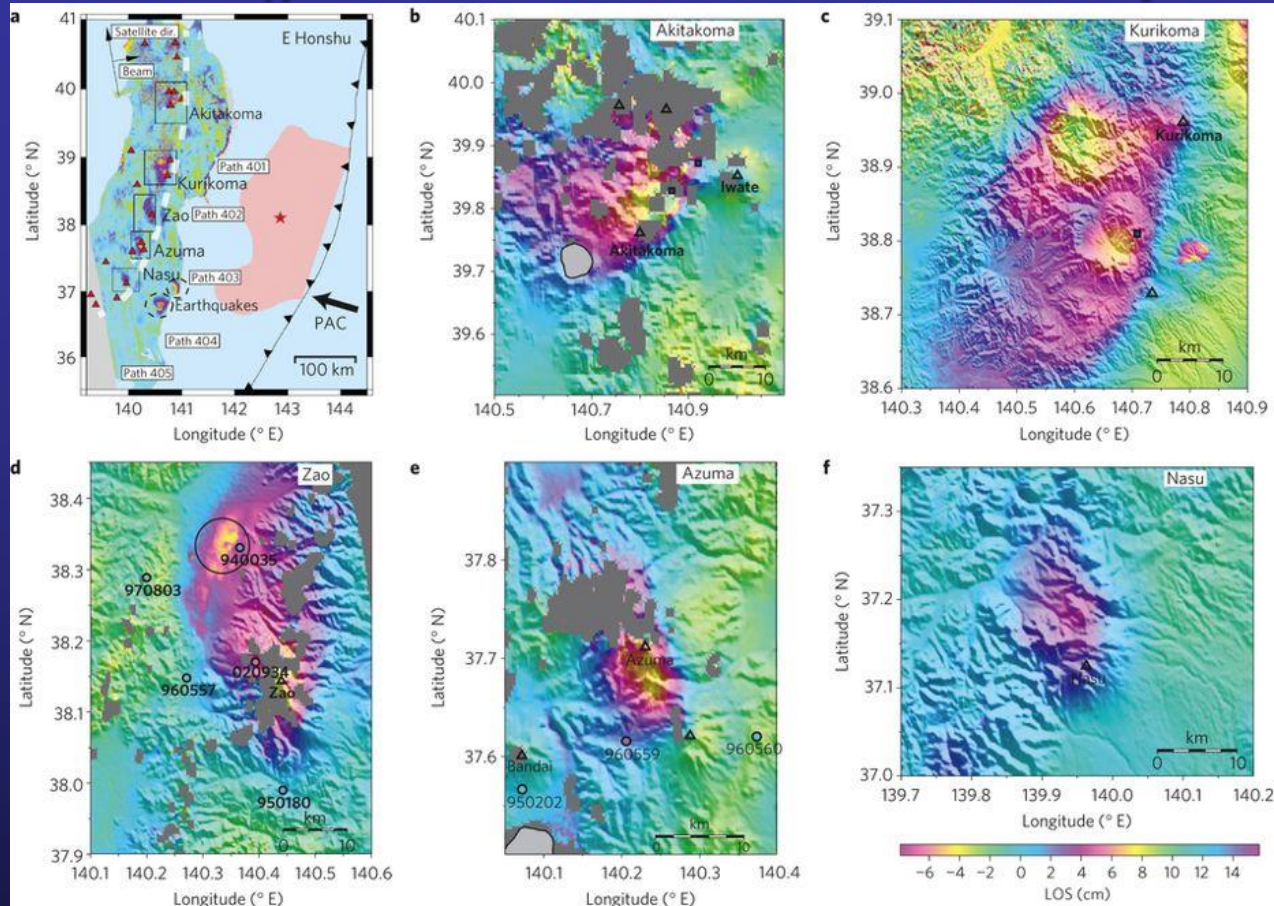
Published: 07 January 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2018.0008>

2010 M_w 8.8 Maule, Chile earthquake



Subsidence of <15 cm in five volcanic areas within weeks
"We suggest that the deformation is related to coseismic release of fluids from hydrothermal systems documented at three of the five subsiding regions"

2011 M_w 9.0 Tohoku earthquake



Volcanic regions 150-200 km from the rupture subsided by <math>< 15\text{ cm}</math>

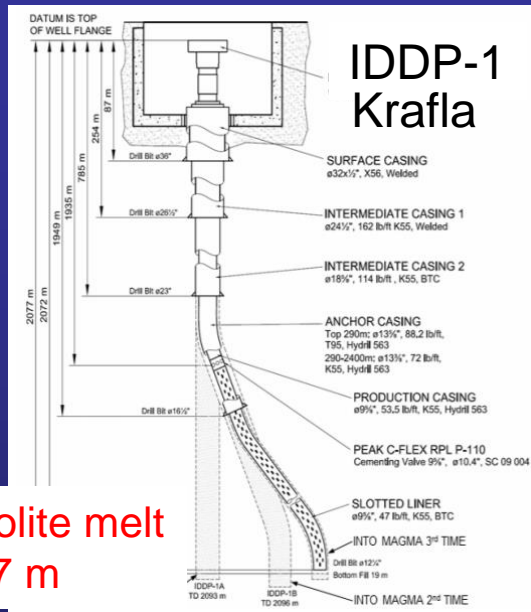
“hot plutonic bodies beneath the volcanoes, that may have deformed and subsided in response to stress changes”

Topics to be covered

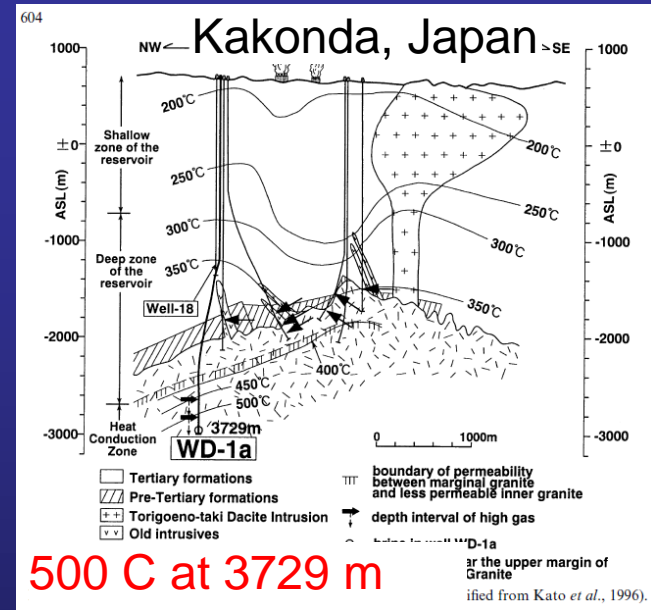
- Define hydrothermal systems and their relation to the underlying magma
- Empirical methods used to investigate hydrothermal systems
- Properties rocks and multiphase fluids
- Heat and mass transport from magma to the surface
- Available numerical simulators and an example of an application

Observations used in
studies of continental
hydrothermal systems

Deep drilling in volcanic areas



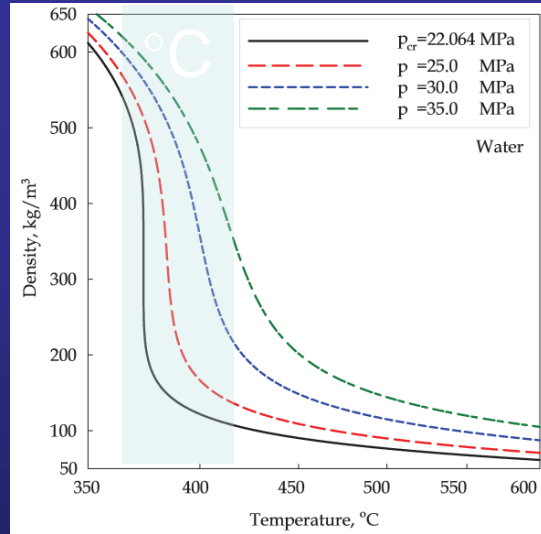
Friðleifsson et al., 2015



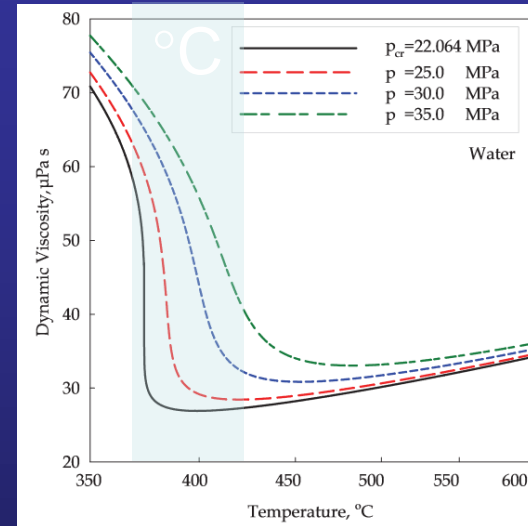
Ikeuchi et al., 1998

- Pre-drilling geophysics was found to be mostly incorrect, but much was learned about hydrothermal dynamics
- In deep and hot wells ($T < 450$ °C) a narrow zone of low-permeability rocks formed by mineral deposition
- Above the layer - brittle rocks and hydrostatic to sub-lithostatic pressures. Below - ductile rocks and lithostatic pressures

Motivation for deep drilling - supercritical geothermal resources



Critical point
374 °C
22.1 MPa



- Very high enthalpy supercritical geothermal systems near the brittle–ductile transition zone can possibly make deep wells economic
- Density and dynamic viscosity undergo a significant drop within a very narrow temperature range, while specific enthalpy sharply increases
- More than 25 deep wells worldwide have encountered temperatures in excess of the critical point

Ongoing and future drilling - supercritical fluids for energy production

Japan Beyond-Brittle Project

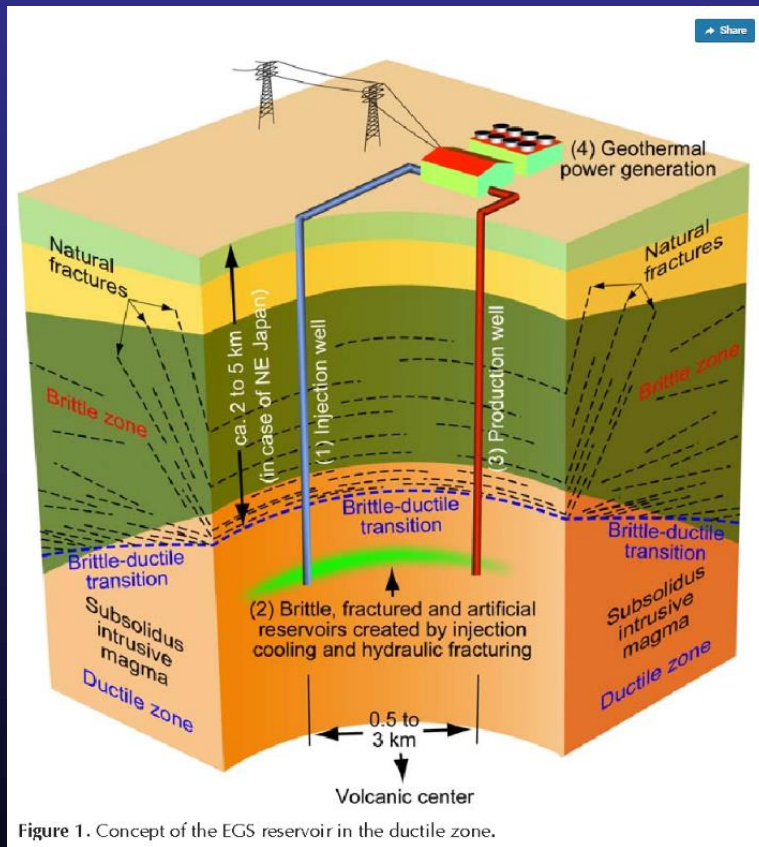


Figure 1. Concept of the EGS reservoir in the ductile zone.

KRAFLA MAGMA TESTBED STRATEGY

Bringing the World to a New Age in Energy Generation and a Closer Understanding of Magma

Planning an International Magma Observatory

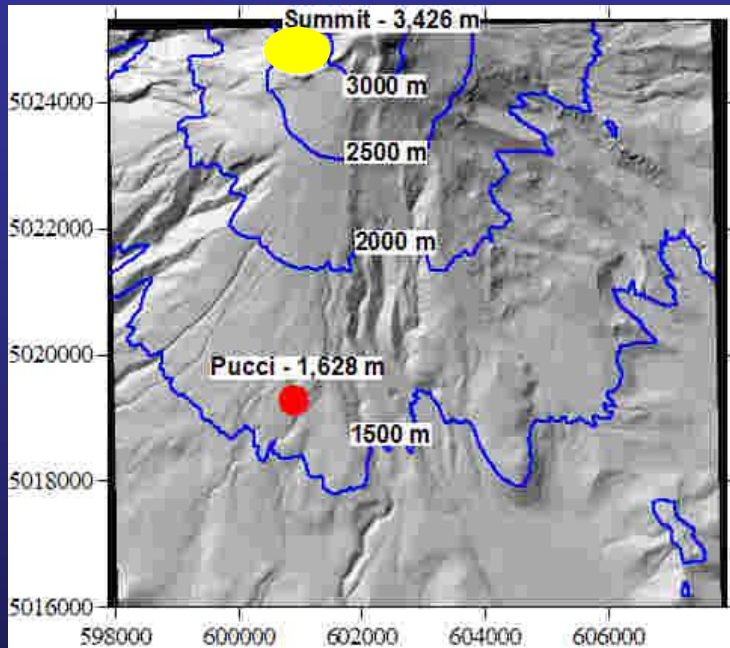


A planned project will drill into a magma reservoir in Iceland that has never erupted to the surface, giving scientists a fresh look at Earth's underground "plumbing."

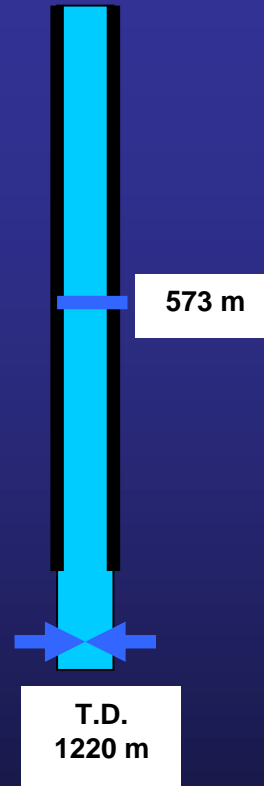
By John Eichelberger ⌚ 25 June 2019

Drilling in steep stratovolcanoes - how much water is in a volcanic edifice?

Pucci Well at Mt. Hood



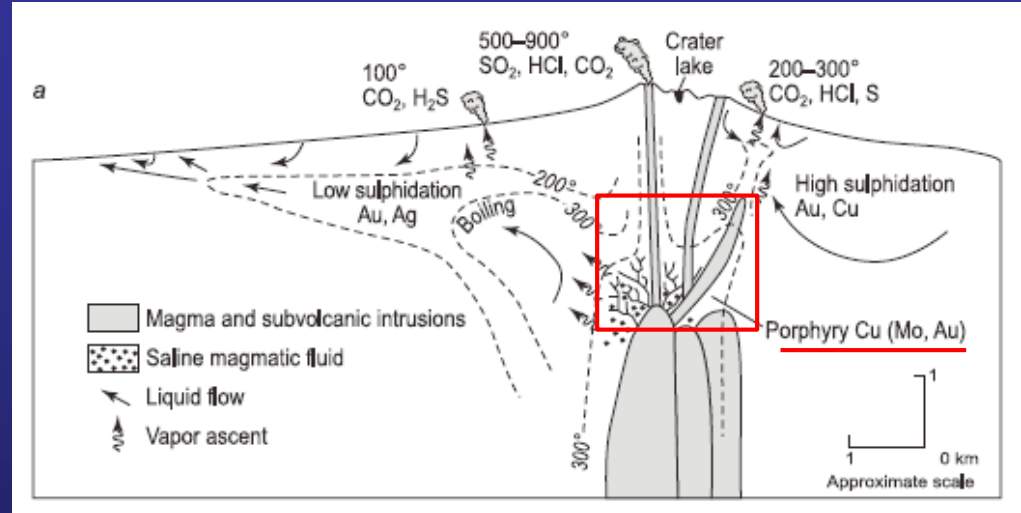
Near Timberline Lodge



- Drilled ~ 1600 below the summit
- Deep water table ~ 573 m
- Near summit vent at boiling temperature with magmatic gases suggests (high $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$) a dry conduit
- **“Dry” core and wet lower outer flanks**

Ore deposits - windows into ancient hydrothermal systems

Chuquicamata, Chile



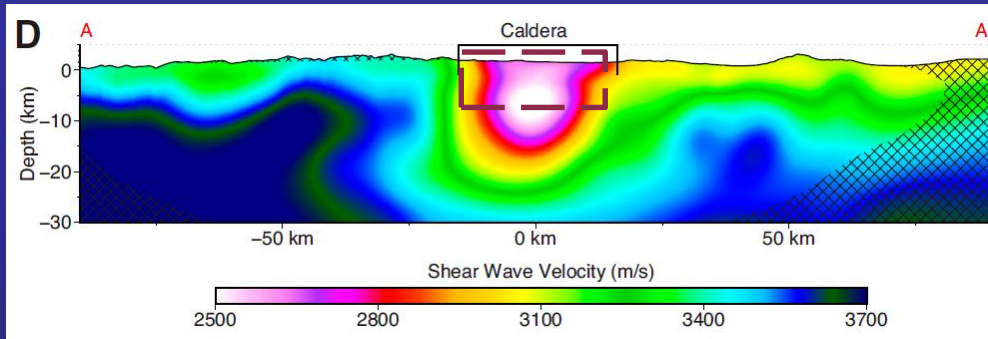
Hedenquist and Lowenstern (Nature 1994)

- Voluminous porphyry ore deposits have economic amounts of copper and often molybdenum, silver and gold
- **Magmatic vapors and hypersaline liquids are a primary source of metals** in ore deposits
- Metals are also **leached from rocks** enhanced by acid magmatic vapors absorbed by meteoric waters

Inferences from geophysics

Seismic tomography

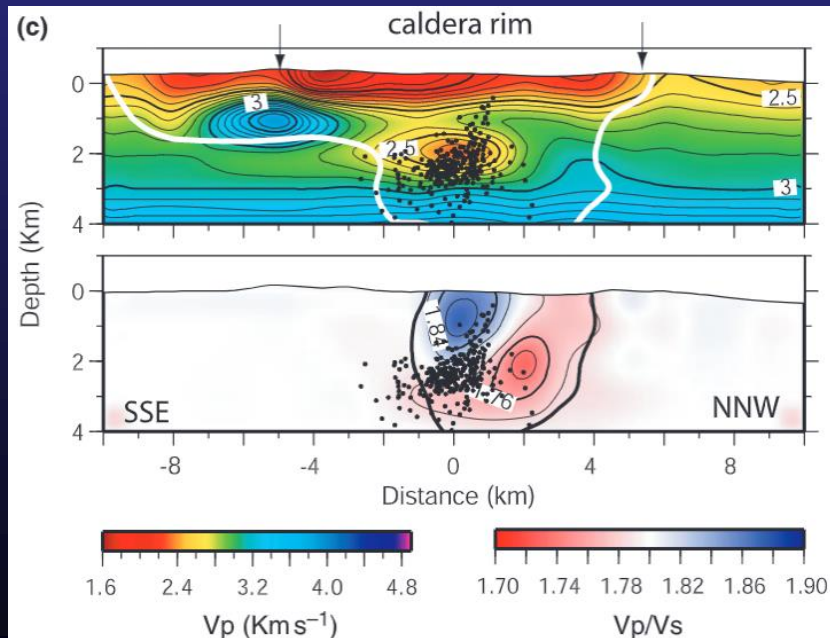
Long Valley caldera



Flinders et al., Geology 2018

- Not enough resolution to detect spatial variations in the shallow crust

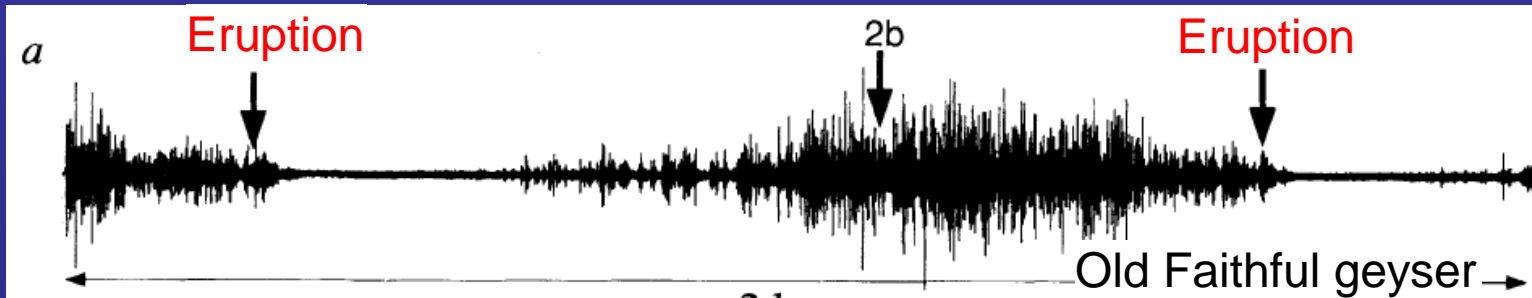
Campi Flegrei caldera



Chiarabba & Moretti, 2006

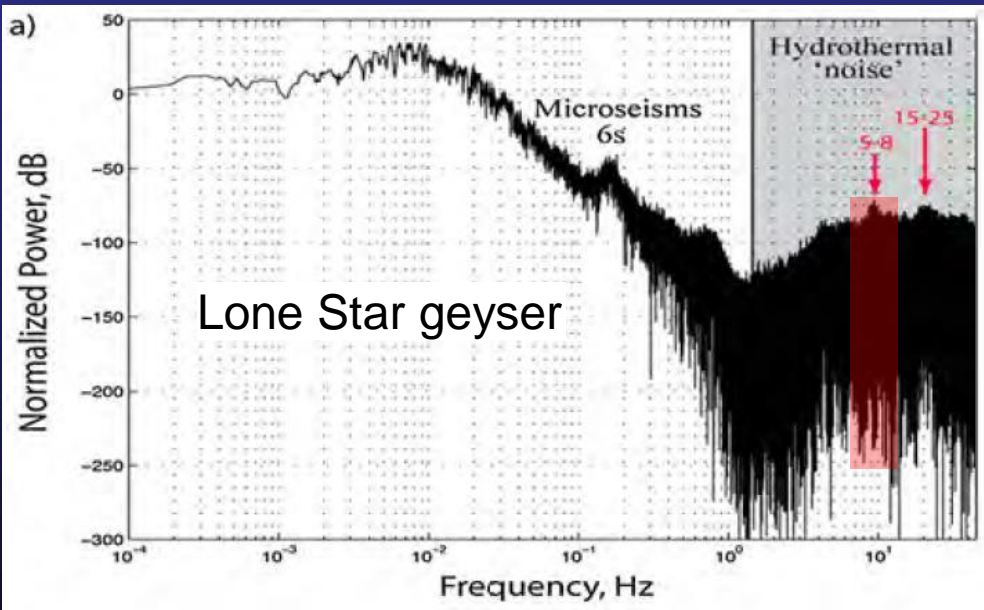
- P wave to S-wave velocity ratio (V_p/V_s) tomography is useful for delineating structures of, and within hydrothermal systems

Broadband seismometers at geysers



Kedar et al., Nature 1996

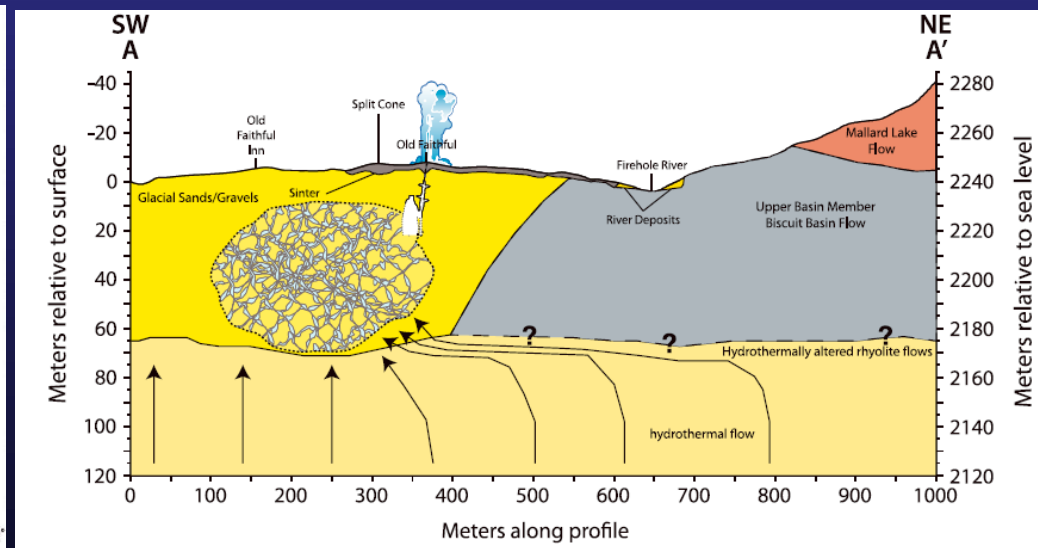
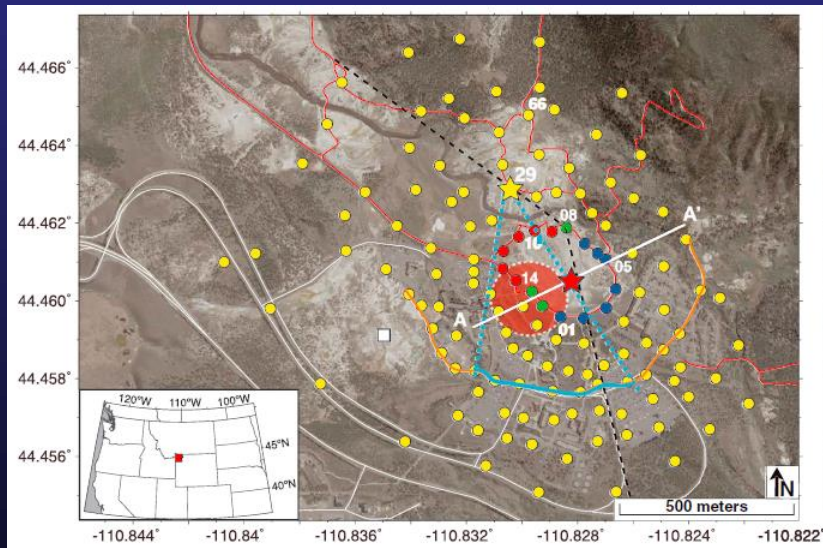
- Broadband seismometers record multiphase processes leading to an eruption at multiple frequencies
- The frequency of hydrothermal tremor generated by impulsive pressure signals associated with bubble collapse is mainly ~ 1–10 Hz band



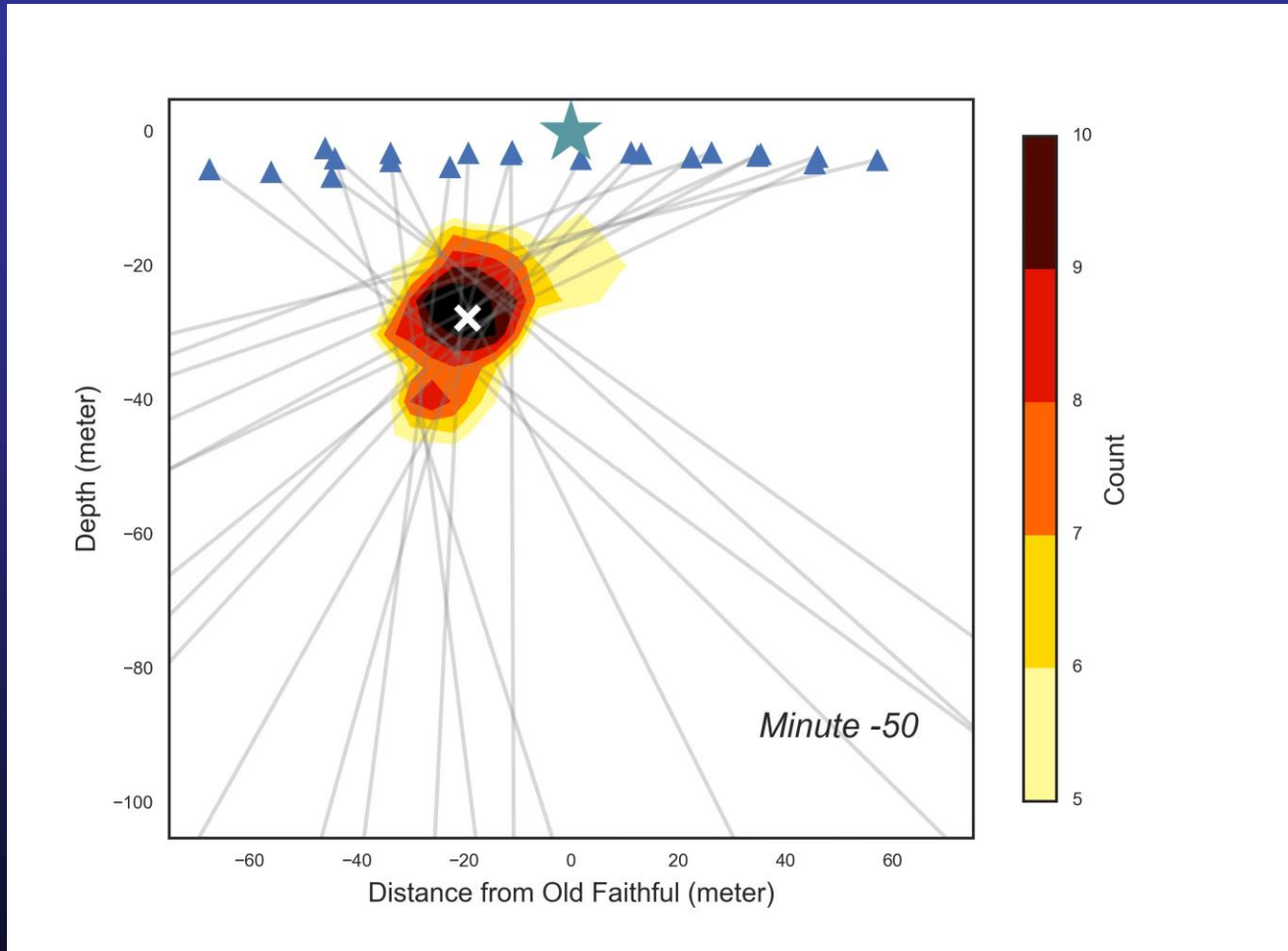
Vandemeulebrouck et al., JGR 2014

Nodal seismometers at Old Faithful

- Dense arrays of nodal geophones can track the 3-D migration of hydrothermal tremor throughout the eruption cycle
- Delineating subsurface reservoirs and their dimensions depends on array density and configuration

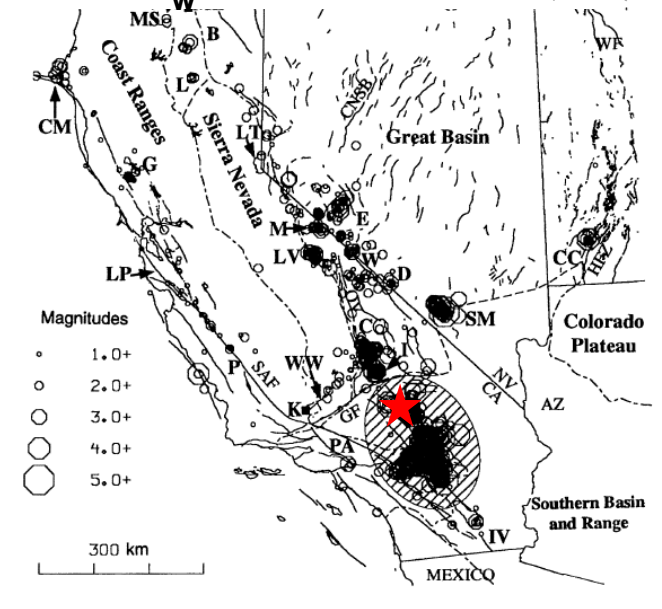


Hydrothermal tremor migration at Old Faithful geyser



Preferential earthquake triggering in hydrothermal systems

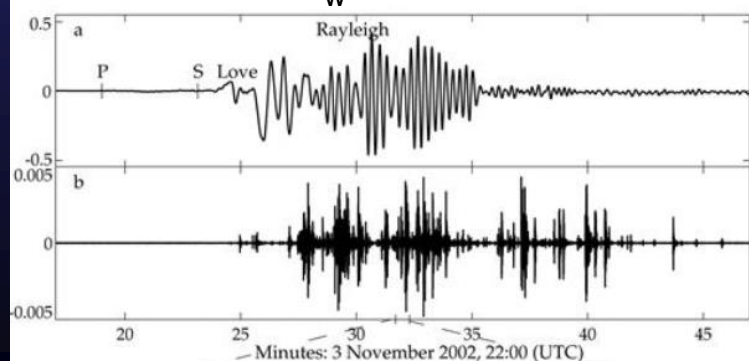
1992 M_w 7.3 Landers EQ



- Seismic swarms (<6 km depth) are preferentially triggered in hydrothermal areas
- Love & Rayleigh waves (15-40 sec) trigger the swarms ($M \leq 2.5$)
- The small dynamic stresses (<10 kPa) suggest a **critically stressed crust in hydrothermal areas of the Western US**

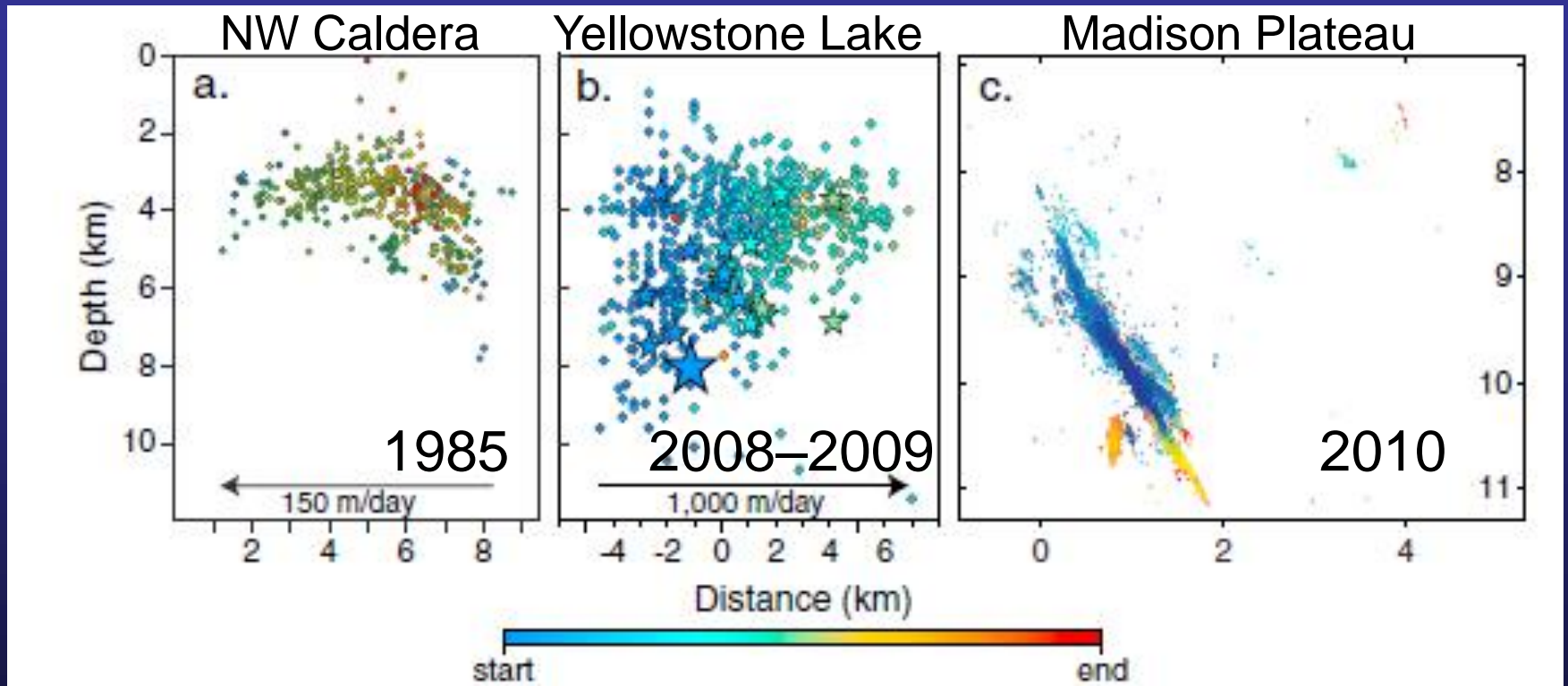
Hill et al., Science 1993

2002 M_w 7.9 Denali EQ



Prejean et al., BSSA 2004

Spatial and temporal patterns of seismic swarms in Yellowstone



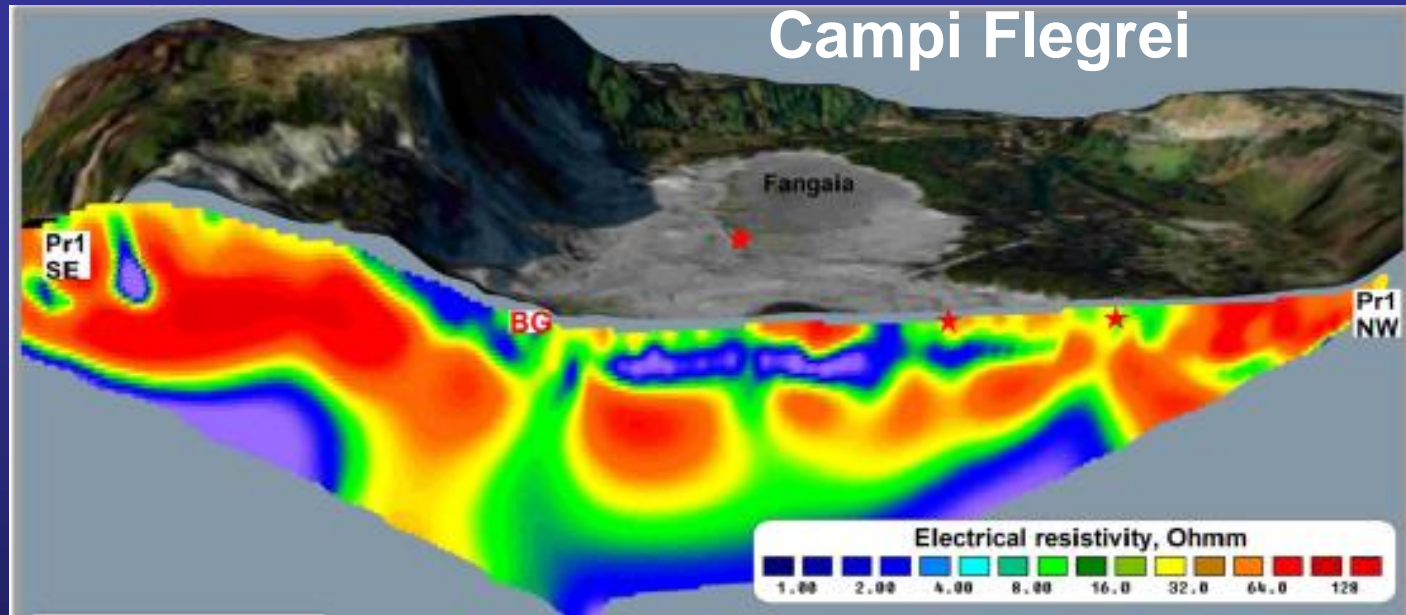
Waite & Smith, 2004

Farrell et al., 2014

Shelly et al., 2014

Earthquake swarms in the upper crust
have defined spatial and temporal patterns

Electric, electromagnetic, magnetic methods

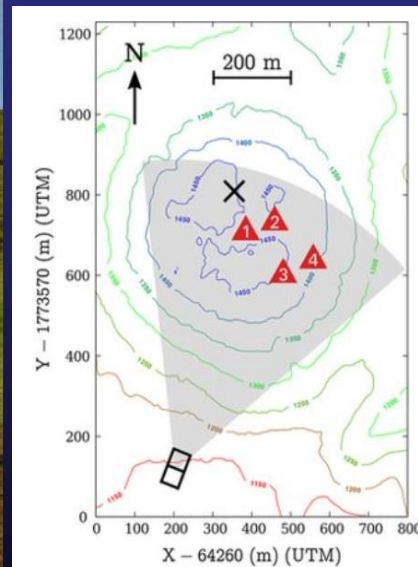


Byrdina et al., JVGR2014

- Hydrothermal alteration reduces the electrical resistivity and magnetization of volcanic rock
- Large contrasts between electrically conductive thermal fluids and clay minerals and the surrounding (colder and/or unaltered) resistive host rocks
- Very few continuous measurements in volcanic systems

Cosmic-ray muon radiography

- Cosmic-ray muons generated in the atmosphere continuously bombard the Earth's surface from above, arriving at all angles
- Cosmic-ray muon radiography can be applied by placing a detector to image density variations in a volume that is higher in elevation

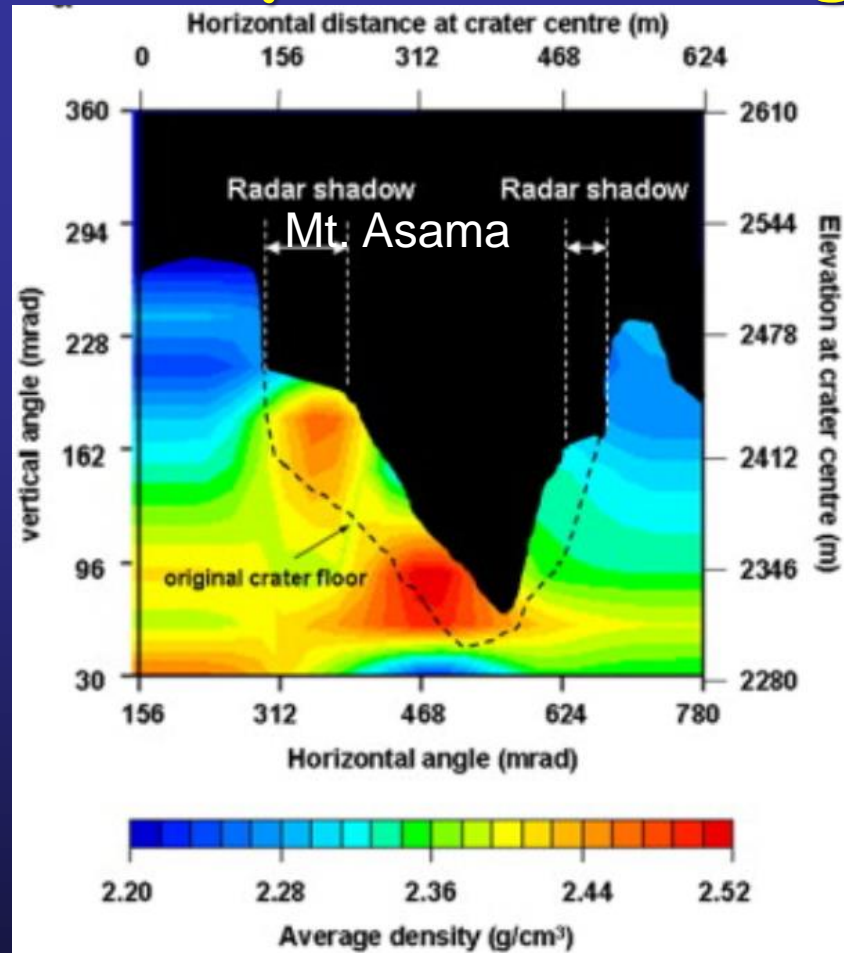


La Soufrière of Guadeloupe



▲ active zones visible at the dome surface

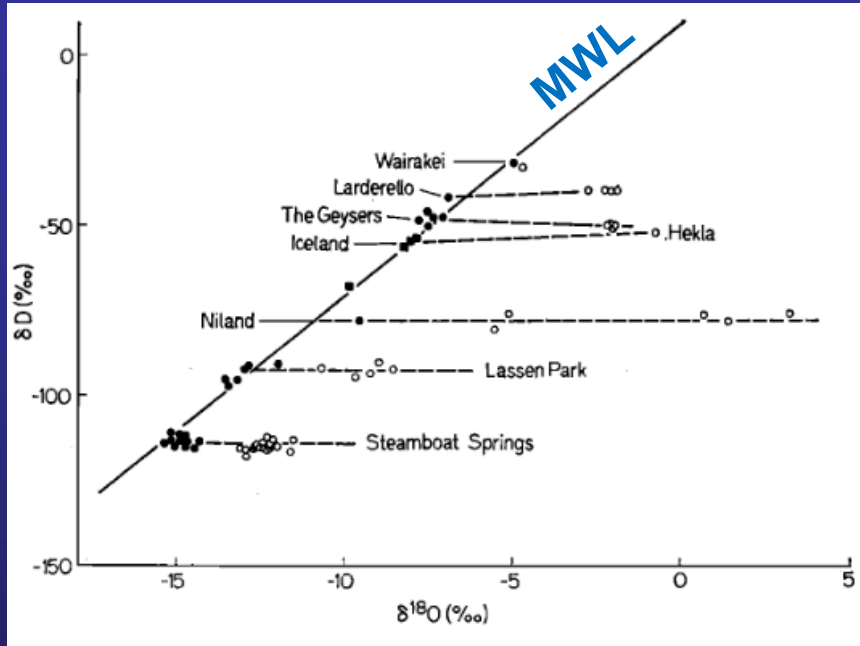
Cosmic-ray muon radiography



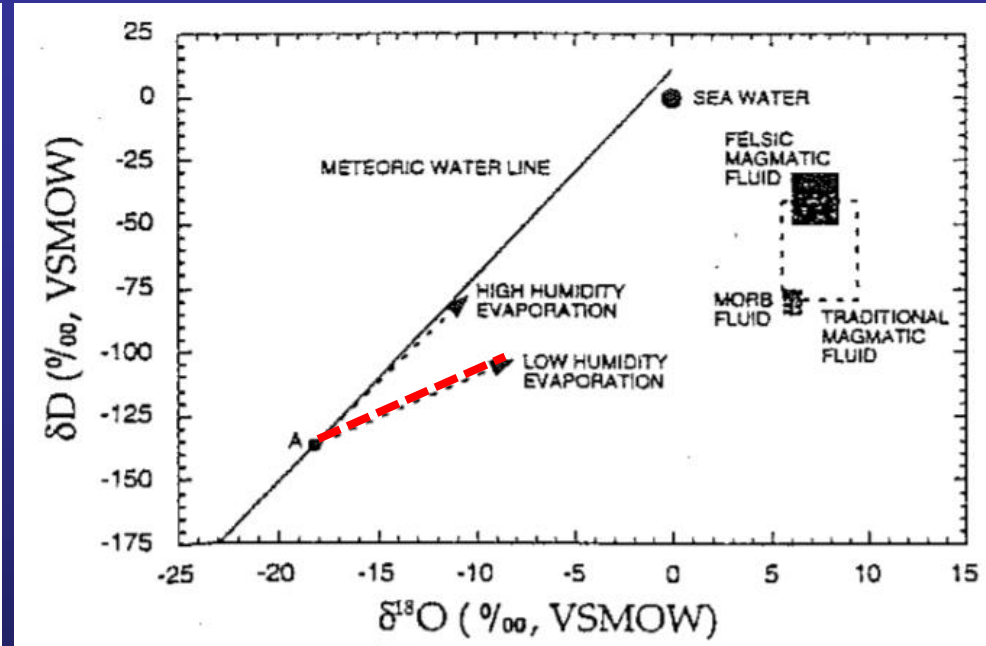
- **3-D density variations** that can result from the heterogeneous distribution of lithology or water saturation
- Less useful in calderas and shield volcanoes

Inferences from the
chemical and isotopic
composition of thermal
waters and gas

Origin of water in hydrothermal systems



Taylor, Econ. Geol. 1974

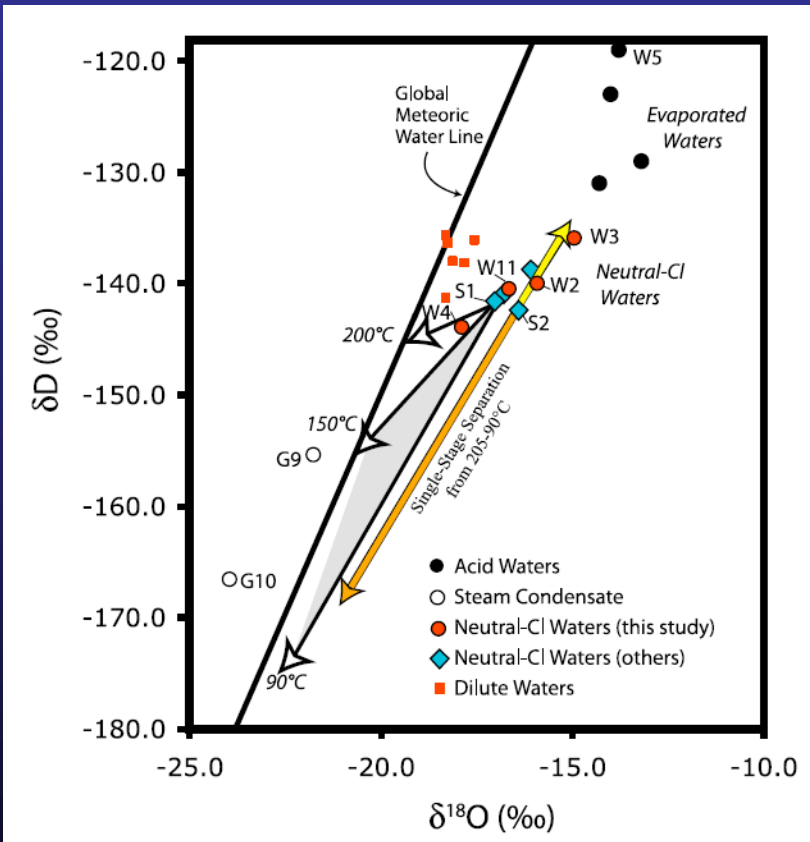


Campbell & Larson, Rev. Econ. Geol. 1998

- The isotopic composition of all waters discharged from volcanic systems can be traced to **meteoric water recharge**
- The amounts of magma-derived water in volcano-hydrothermal systems is negligible
- In multiphase systems, boiling and evaporation change the composition significantly

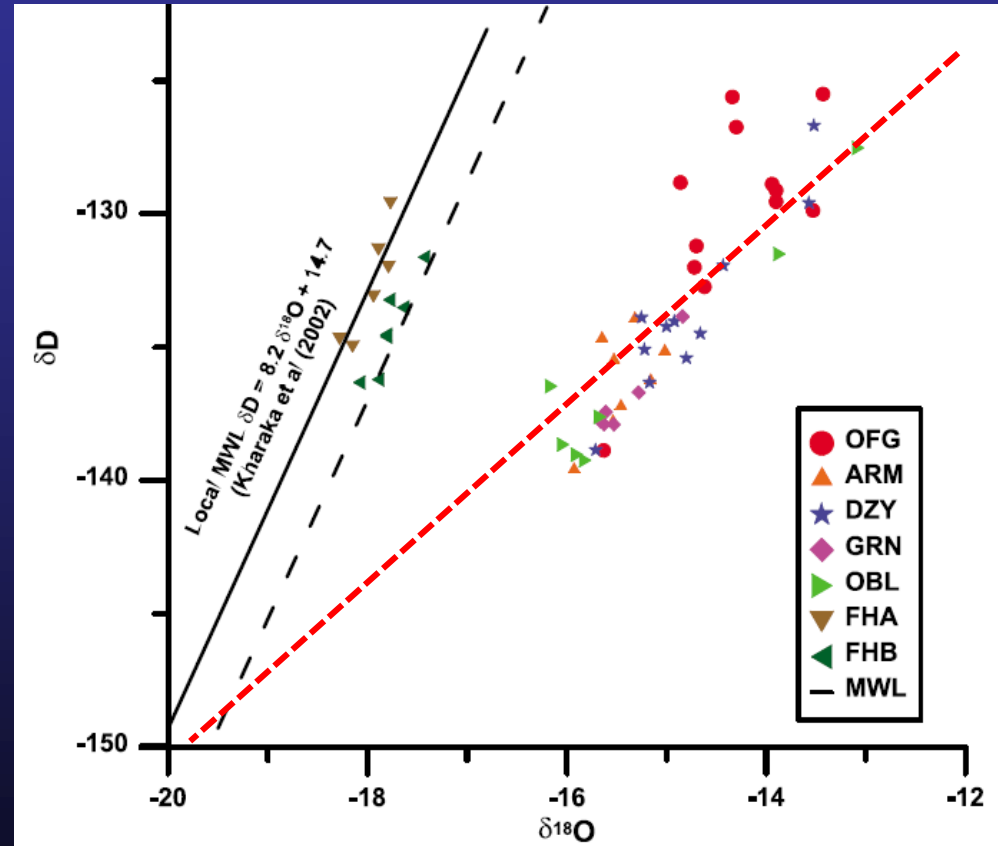
Examples of boiling and evaporation from Yellowstone's thermal basins

Heart Lake Geyser Basin



Lowenstern et al. G3 2012

Upper Geyser Basin



Hurwitz et al. G3 2012

Water and gas chemistry - insights on the current state of magmatism

BULLETIN OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

VOL. 68, PP. 1637-1658, 5 FIGS.

DECEMBER 1957

THERMAL WATERS OF VOLCANIC ORIGIN

By DONALD E. WHITE

Research driven by
geothermal energy and
mineral exploration

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta 1964, Vol. 28, pp. 1323 to 1357.

Natural hydrothermal systems and experimental hot-water/rock interactions

A. J. ELLIS and W. A. J. MAHON

Chemistry Division, D.S.I.R., Petone, New Zealand

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta Vol. 52, pp. 2749-2765

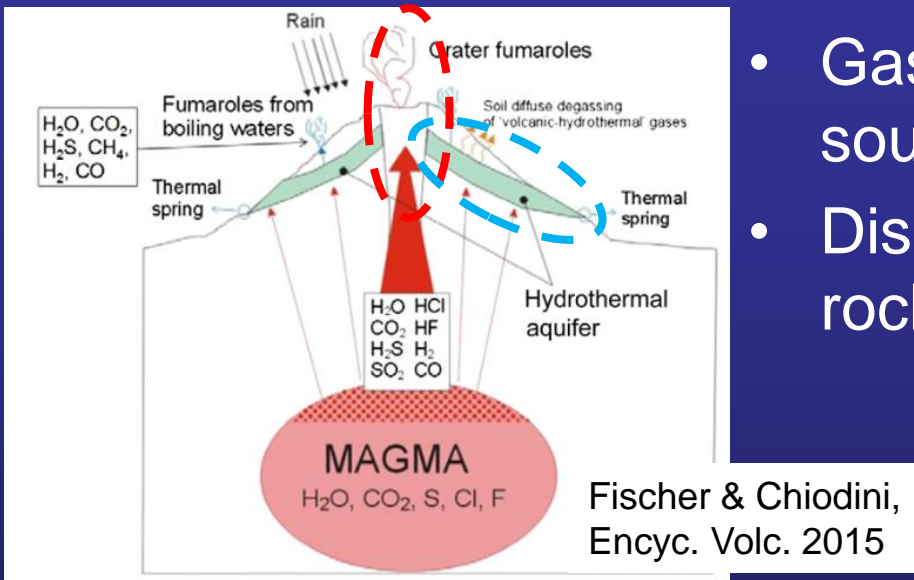
Copyright © 1988 Pergamon Press plc. Printed in U.S.A.

Geothermal solute equilibria. Derivation of Na-K-Mg-Ca geothermometers

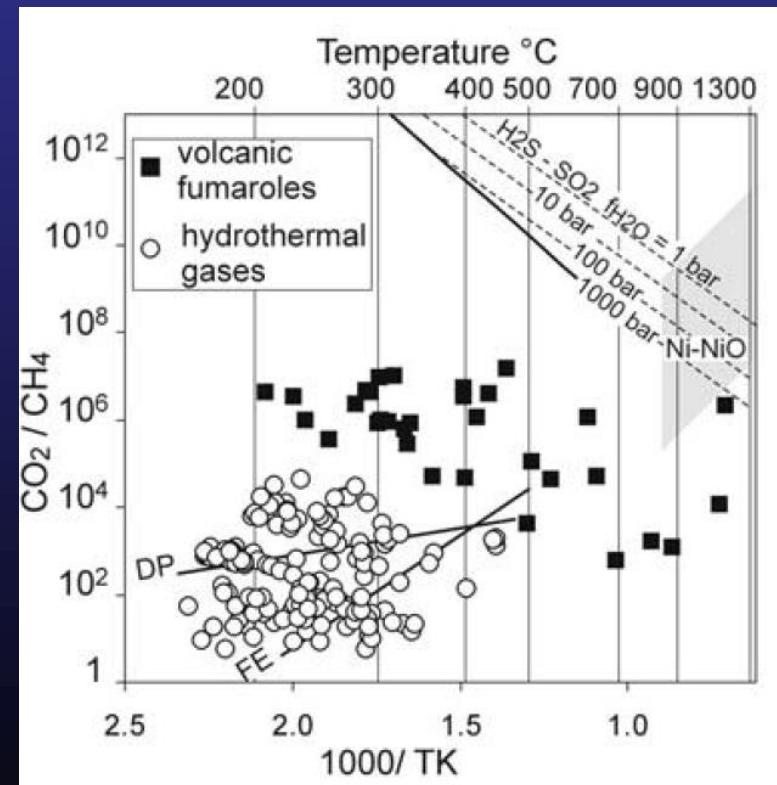
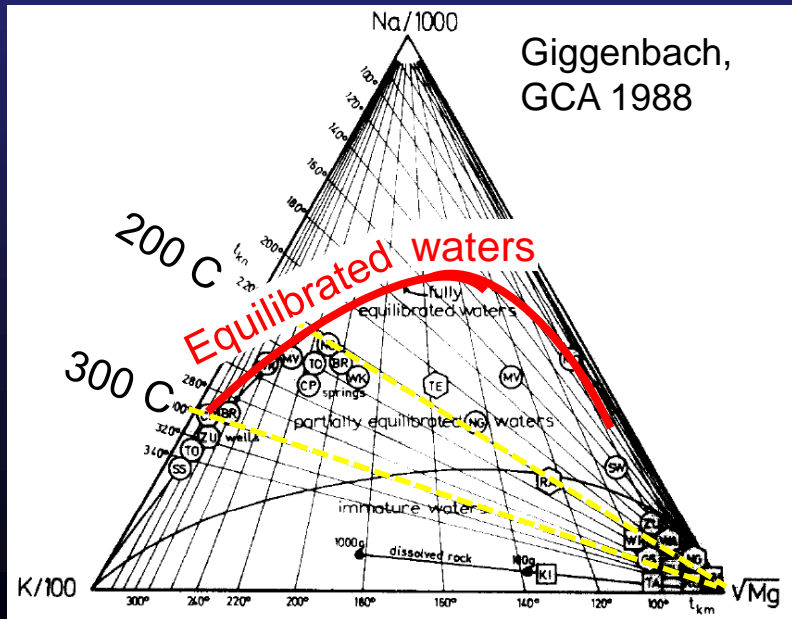
WERNER F. GIGGENBACH

Chemistry Division, DSIR, Petone, New Zealand

Water and gas chemistry - insights on the current state of magmatism



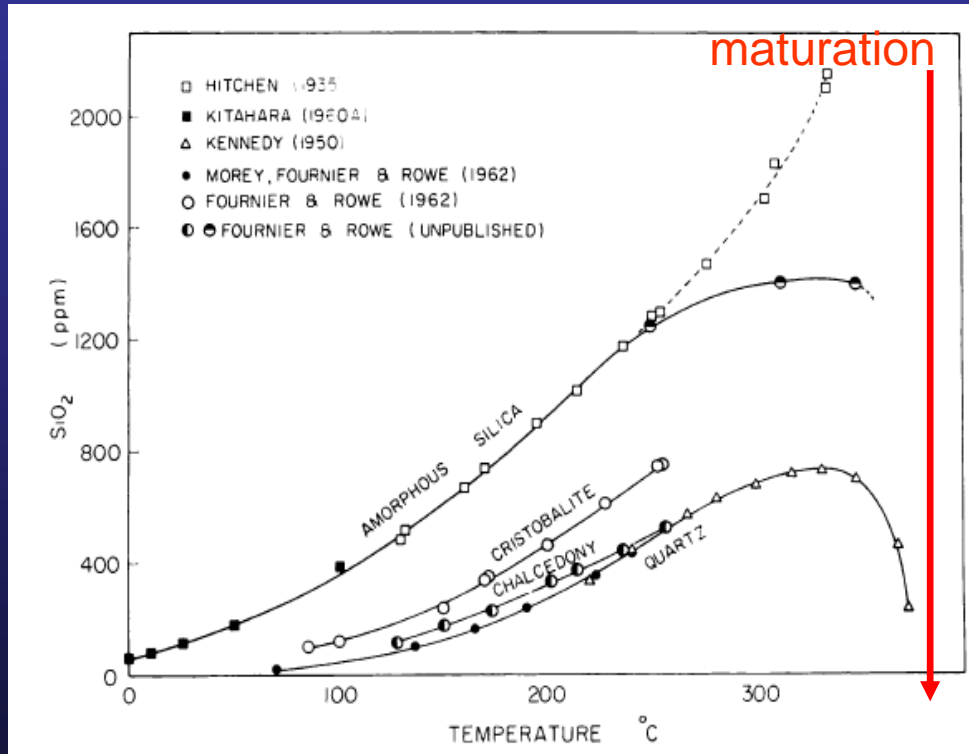
- Gas compositions are indicative of source (magma vs. hydrothermal)
- Dissolved cations equilibrate with rocks at 200-250 °C



Chiodini, GRL 2009

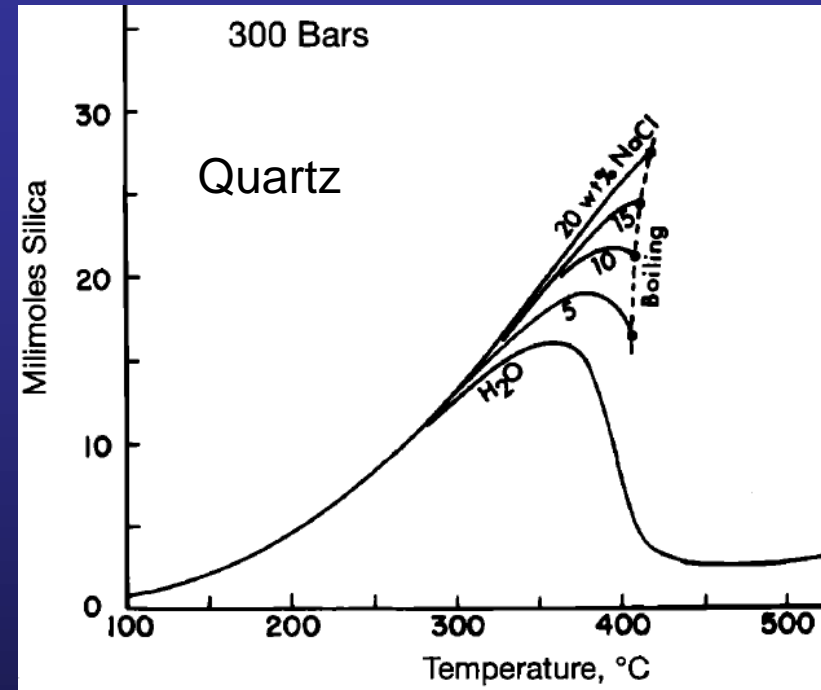
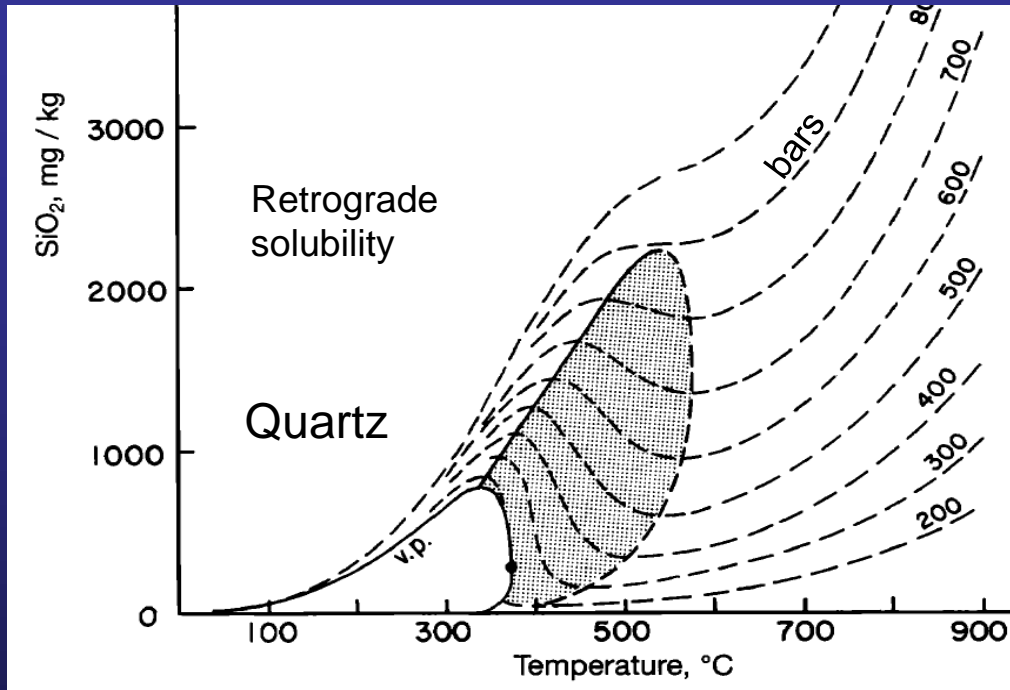
Laboratory experiments - silica solubility

- Why silica (SiO_2)? Volcanic rocks have ~ 40-80 wt% SiO_2
- What happens when it reacts with hot water?



SiO_2 solubility decreases from amorphous -> Cristobalite-> Chalcedony -> quartz

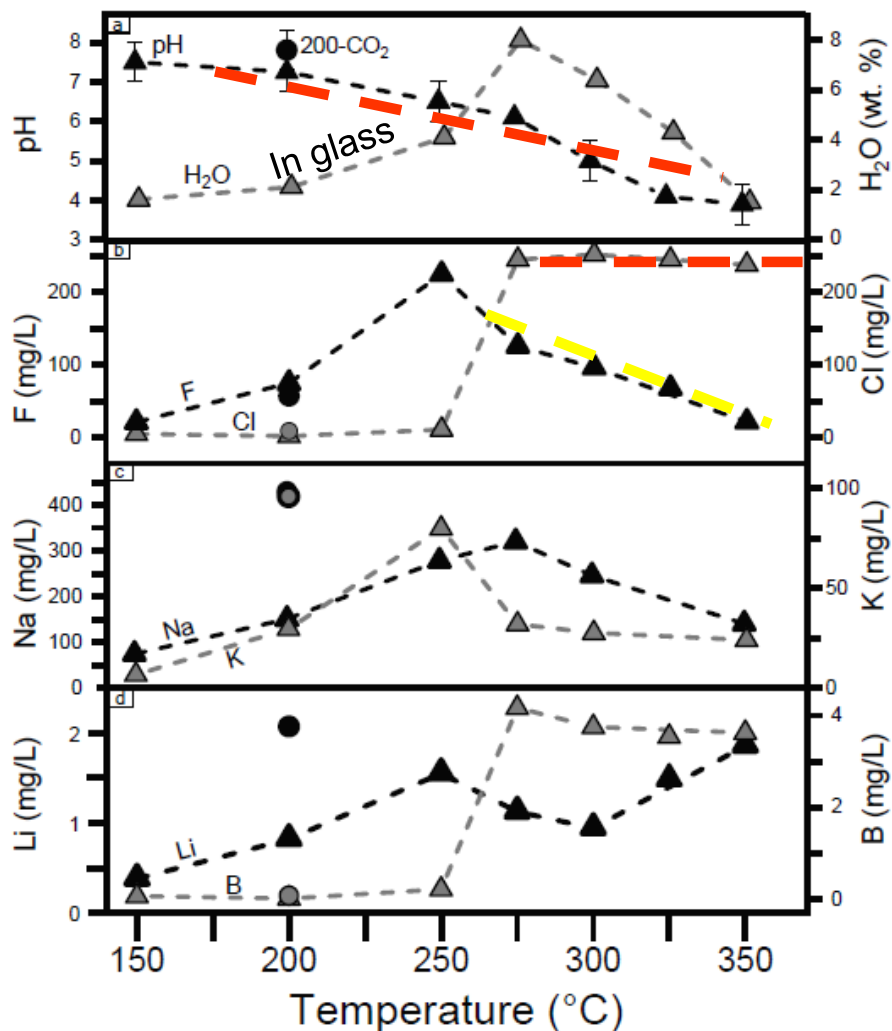
Laboratory experiments - silica solubility



- Solubility has a minimum at ~ 400-450 °C
- Solubility increases with increasing salinity at ~ 350-450 °C

Laboratory experiments - reactivity of rhyolite at 150 °C - 350 °C

Concentrations in reacted water



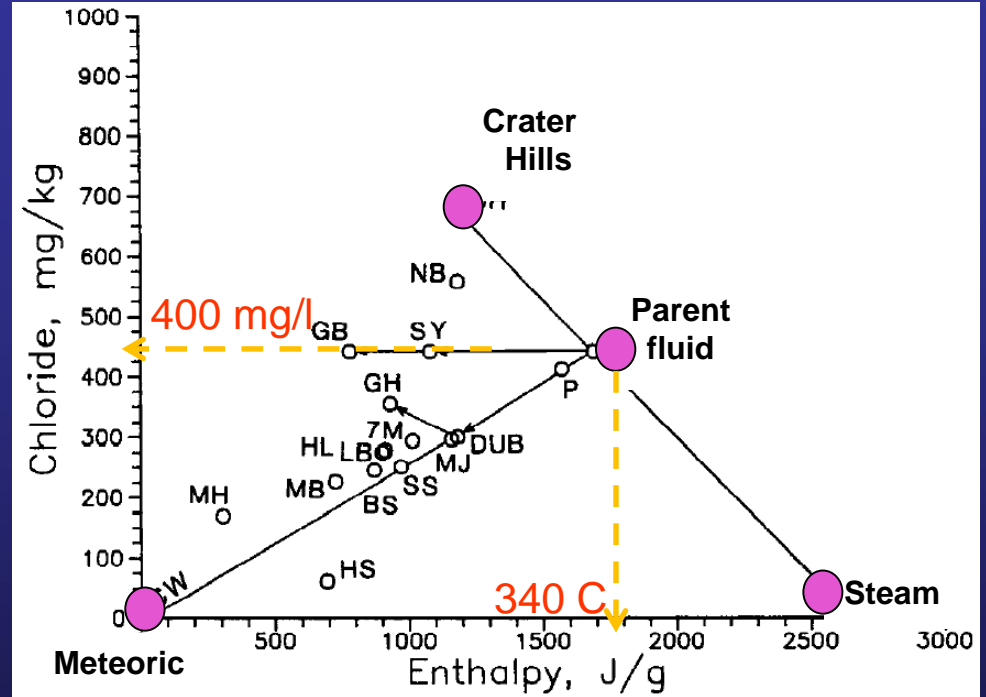
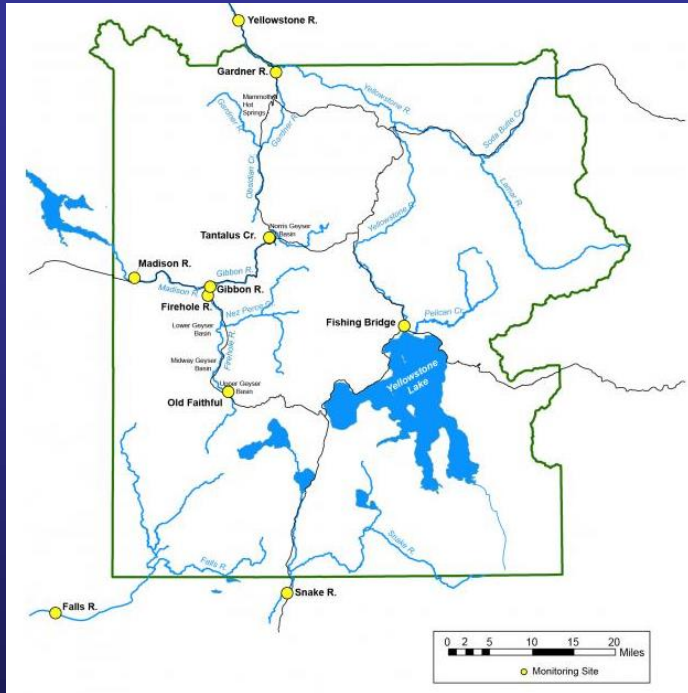
- Rhyolite hydrates with increasing temperature at 150-275 °C (max. 8.2 wt%). At T > 275 °C, secondary minerals form (mainly zeolite)
- At T ≥ 275 °C most **chlorine** is leached out of rhyolite and **fluorine** is incorporated into secondary minerals (**high Cl/F**)
- The stable isotopes of B, Li & Cl do not fractionate at 150 °C to 350 °C
- pH and alkalinity decrease with increasing temperature - (OH⁻) is incorporated into zeolites

Inferences from heat flow measurements

Mechanisms of heat transport

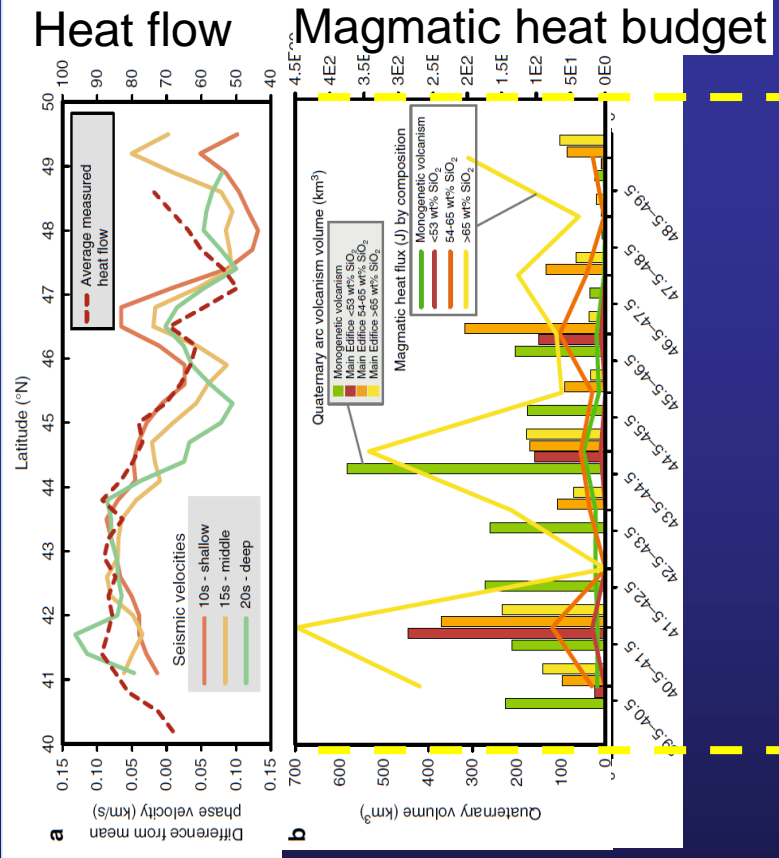
- Conduction – spontaneous flow of thermal energy from higher to lower temperatures
- Advection & convection - transfer of heat through the movement of the medium's particles (groundwater flow)
- Radiation - transfer of energy (heat) by the emission of electromagnetic radiation

Cl-enthalpy method to estimate advective heat flow

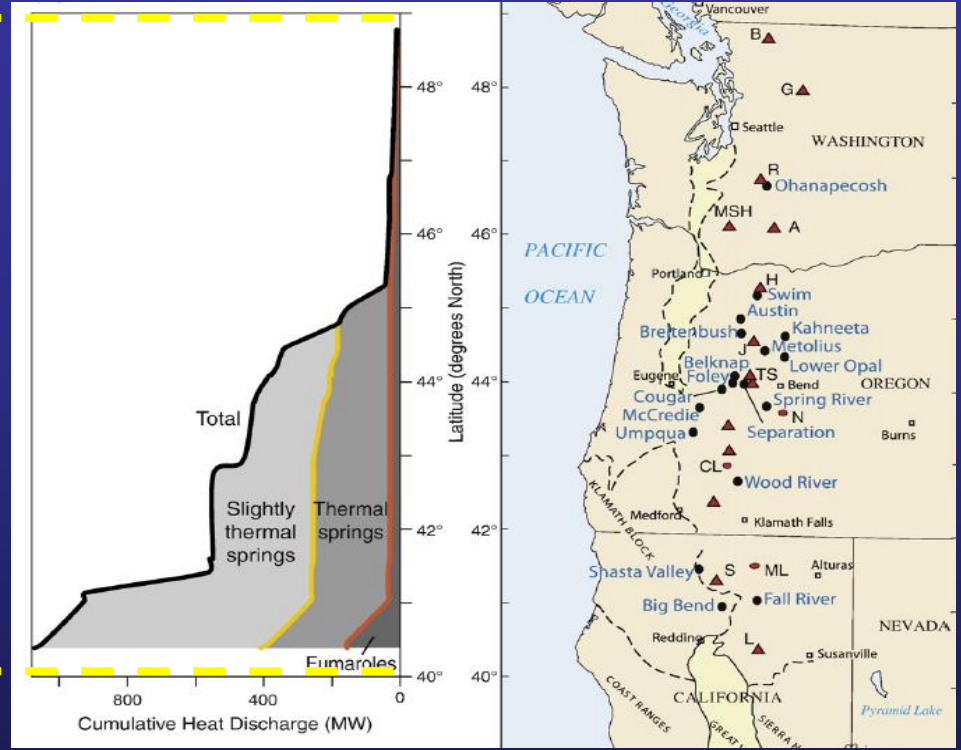


- The USGS & NPS operate a network of gages on all rivers draining the Yellowstone plateau
- Cl discharge from Yellowstone ~ 50,000 ton/year
- A “parent fluid” with 400 mg/l Cl & 340 °C
- Advective heat flow of 6.4 GW, or using a range of parameter values – 4-8 GW

Heat flow from volcanoes of the Cascades



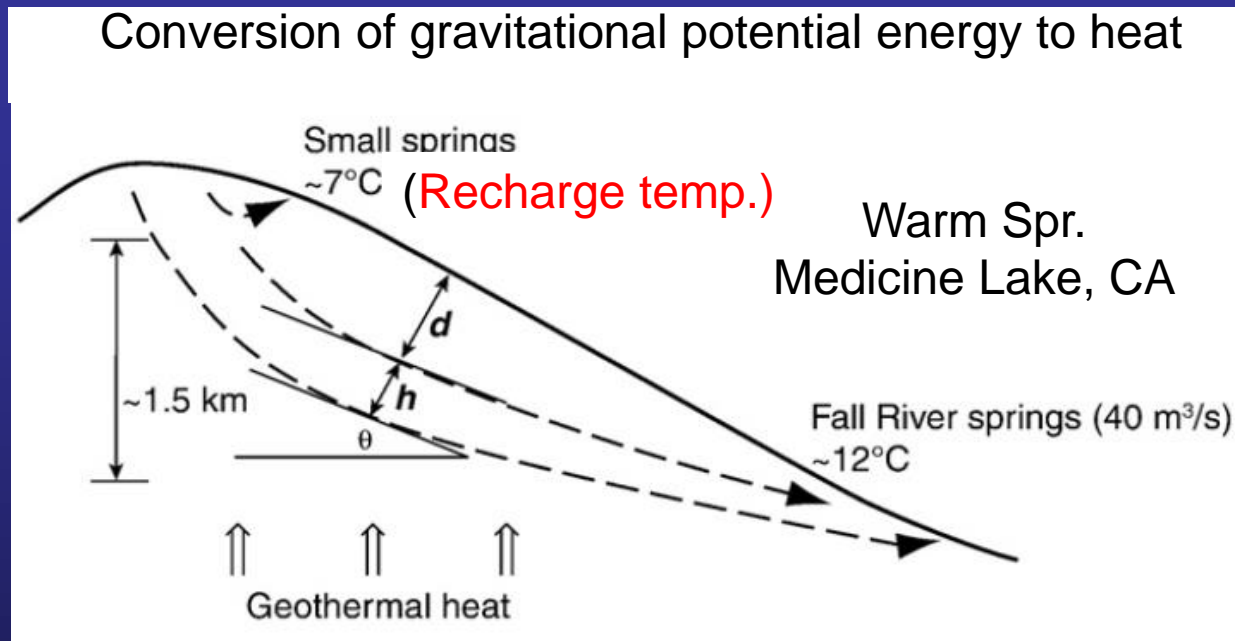
Till et al. Nature Comm 2019



Ingebritsen & Mariner, JVGR 2010

- “Slightly thermal” springs (a few degrees > ambient temp.) ~660 MW
- Thermal-spring ~240 MW
- Fumaroles ~160 MW
- Total ~1050 MW of “steady” heat(excluding transients)

Heat flow from the stratovolcanoes of the Cascades



- The modest warming (5 °C) between high-elevation recharge and spring discharge equals 360 MW
- to interpret the temperature of cold springs, must account for :
(1) **conversion of gravitational potential energy to heat through viscous dissipation**, (2) conduction of heat to or from the Earth's surface, and (3) geothermal warming

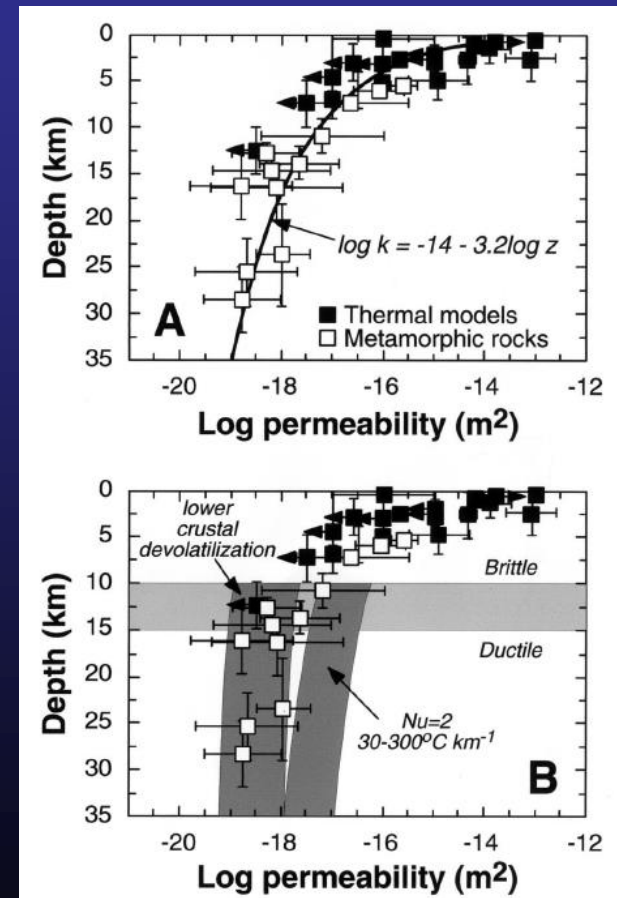
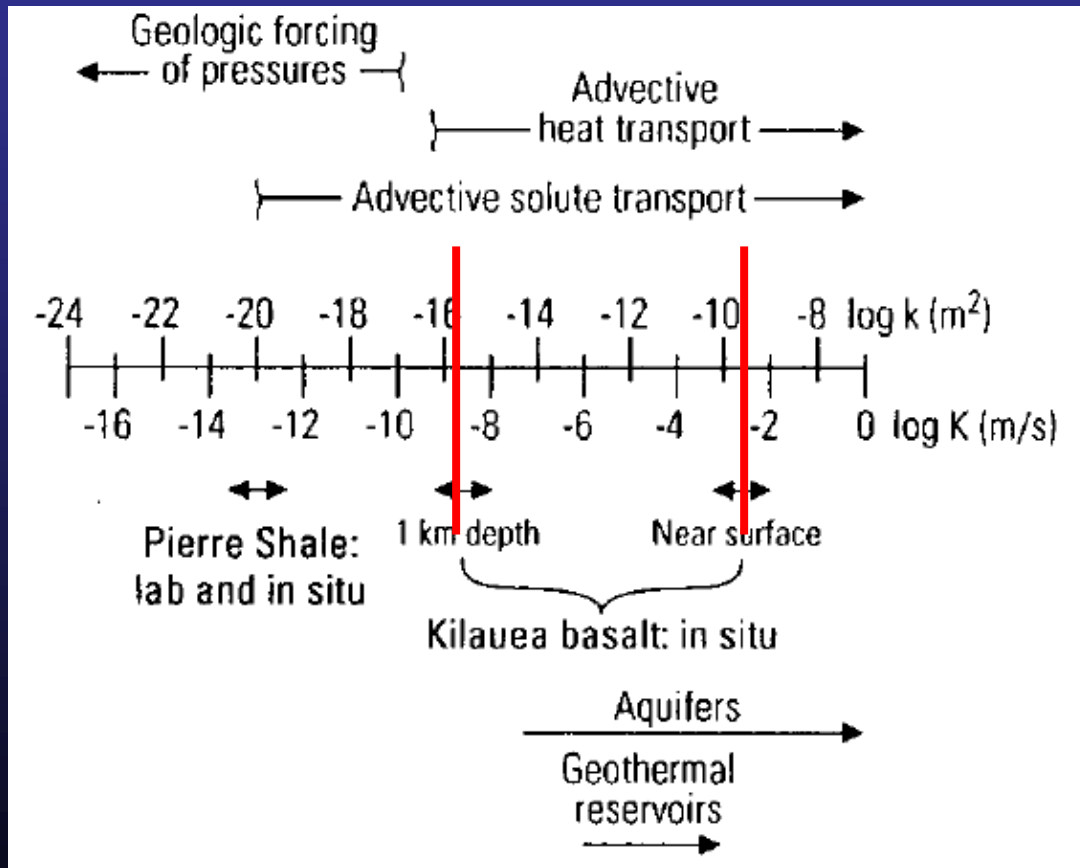
Summary of observations

- **Drilling** – a narrow zone separating brittle and ductile rocks
- **Ore deposits** – magmatic vapors and hypersaline liquids are a source of metals
- **Geophysical imaging** – altered rocks, liquid and vapor saturation, salinity and temperature have unique physical manifestations
- **Broadbands** – multiple frequencies reflect many multiphase processes
- **Dense arrays** - track time-dependent 3-D migration of hydrothermal tremor
- **Seismic swarms** – defined spatial and temporal patterns
- **Water and gas chemistry** – water is meteoric, cations are mainly from crustal leaching of rocks and some anions are from magmatic gas condensation in groundwater
- **Laboratory experiments** – Silica solubility has a minimum at ~ 400-450 °C
- **Heat flow** – insights on the state of the magmatic system

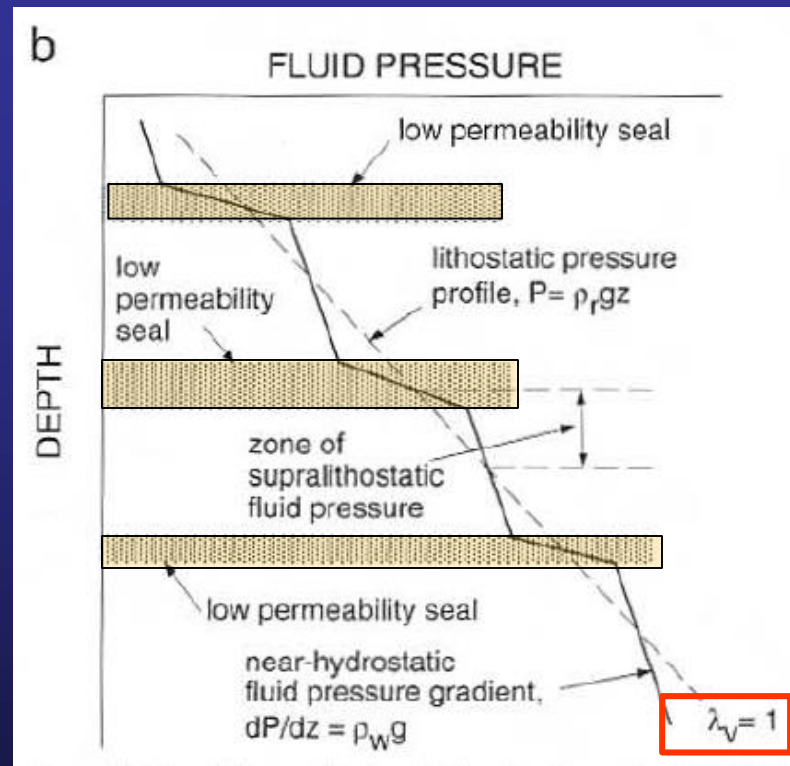
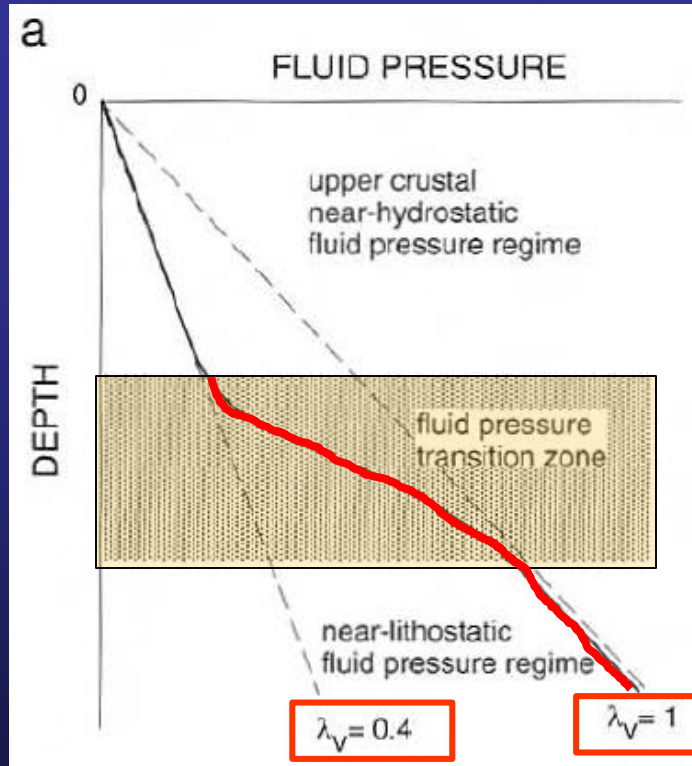
Rock properties in continental hydrothermal systems

Scale- and depth-dependent permeability

- In nature, permeability varies by ~ 17 orders of magnitude
- A mean crustal scale log permeability-depth curve suggests effectively constant permeability below 10-15 km



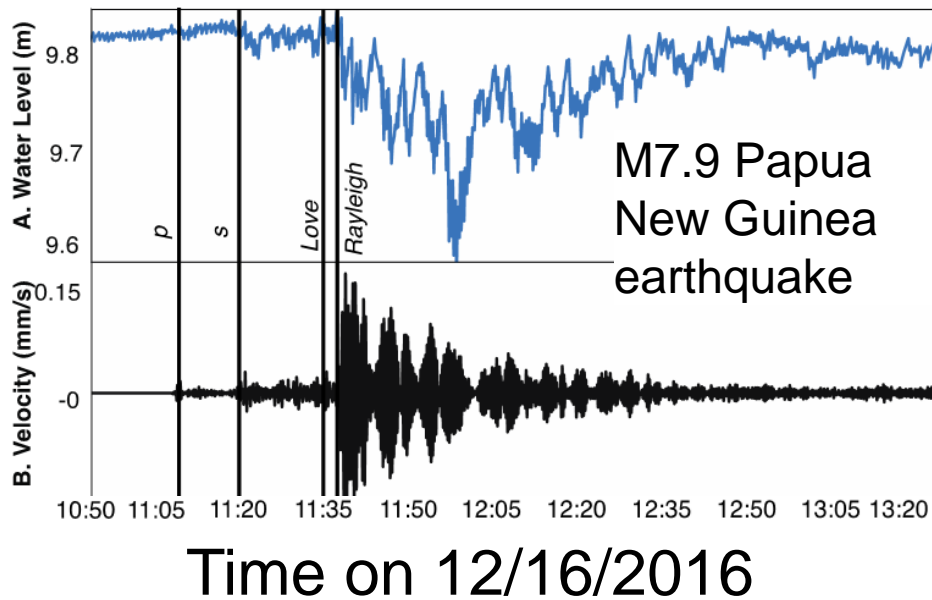
Heterogeneous permeability and fluid pressure distribution



- λ - ratio of hydrostatic to lithostatic pressures
- Low-permeability layers can lead to separated convection cells and anomalous pressures

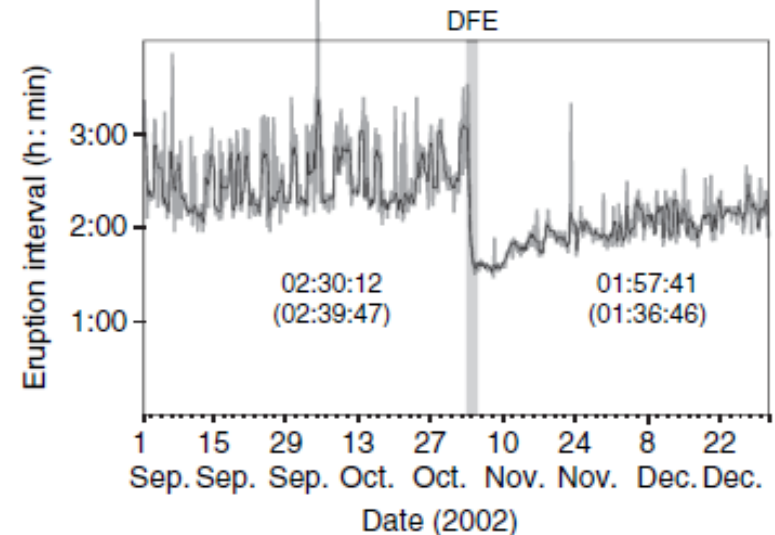
Transient permeability - water level and geyser response to earthquakes

Water level in a Long Valley Caldera well (CH-10B)



Randolph-Flagg PhD; Berkeley 2019

Daisy Geyser, Yellowstone response to the **2002 Denali, Alaska** earthquake

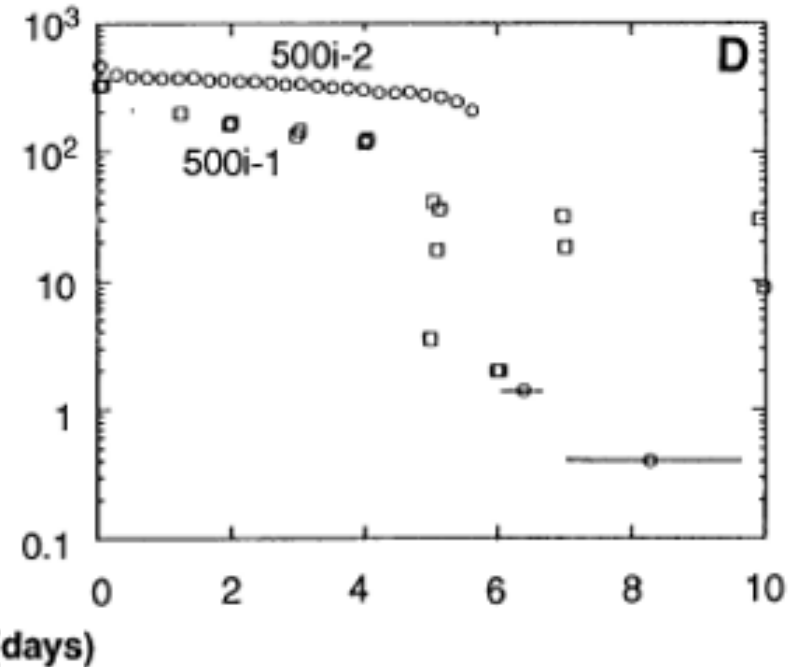
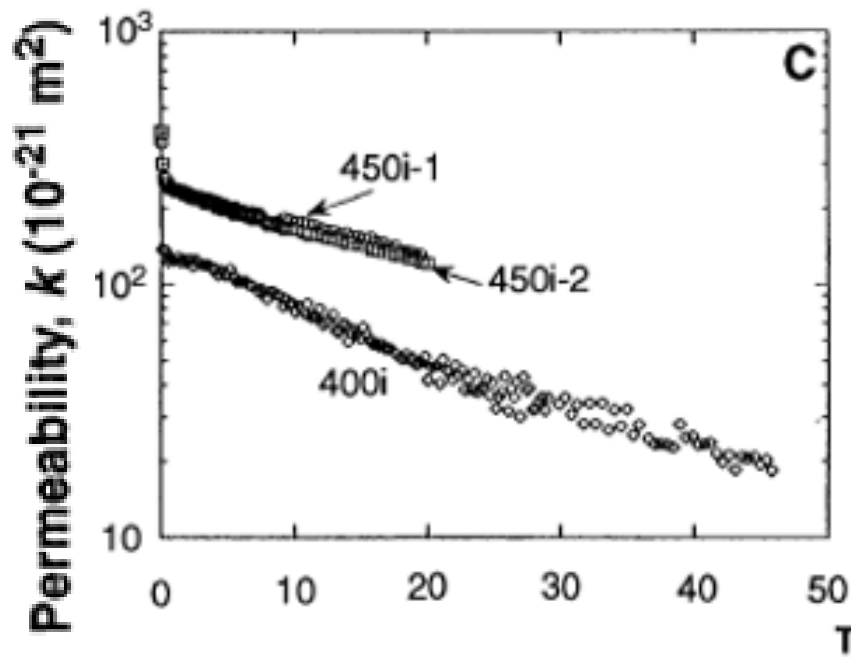


Husen et al. Geology 2004

- Instantaneous permeability change induced by long-period seismic surface waves
- Various types of responses and recoveries

Transient permeability - lab experiments

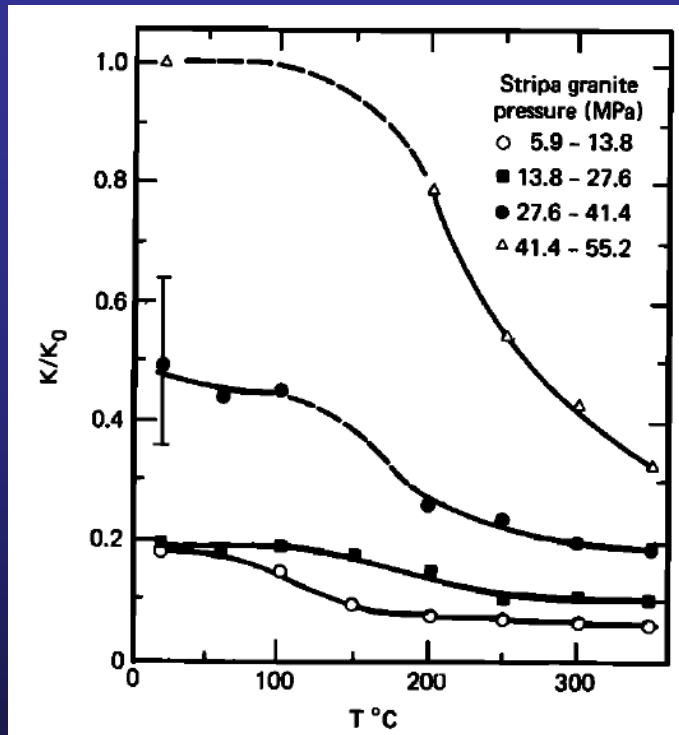
Permeability of intact Westerly granite



Permeability of rocks with hydrothermal flow can gradually decrease by orders of magnitudes in days to weeks

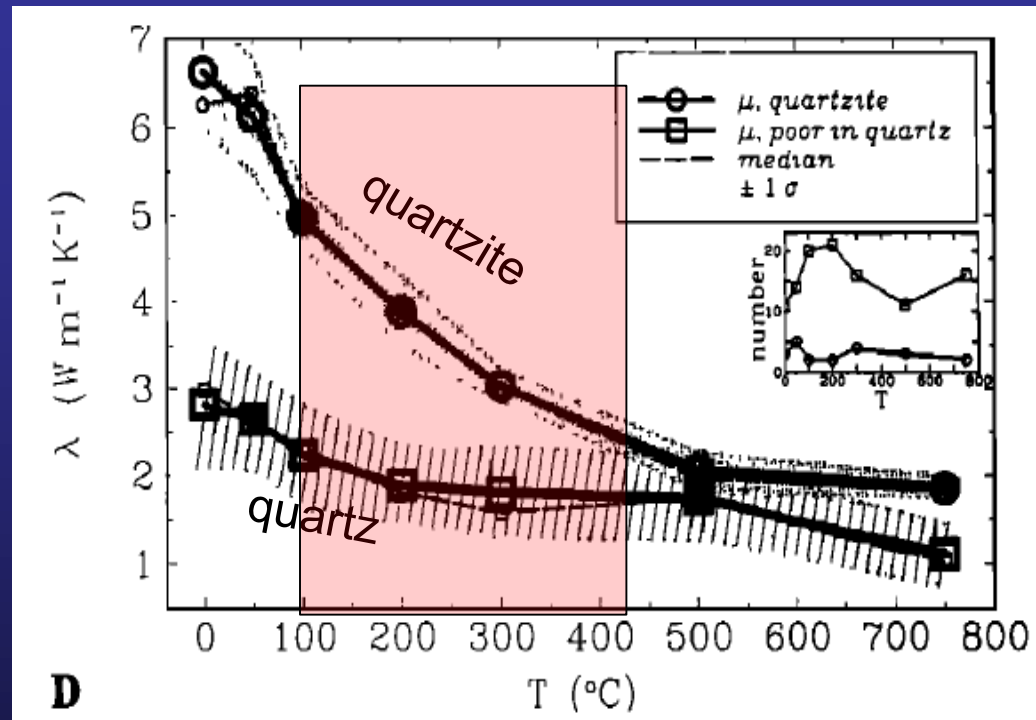
Other rock properties

Bulk Modulus



Heard & Page JGR 1982

Thermal conductivity



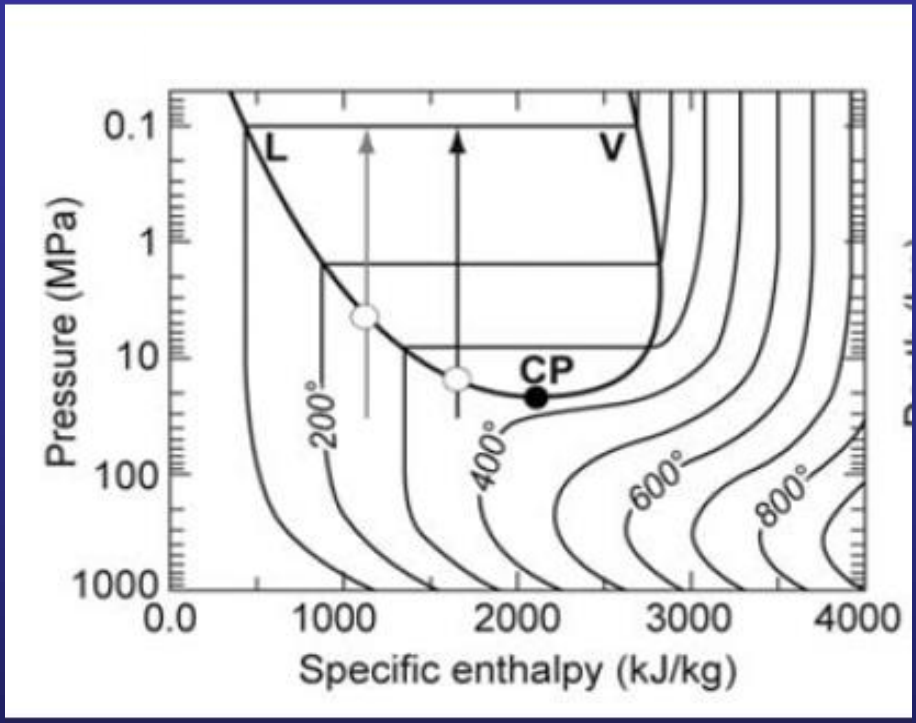
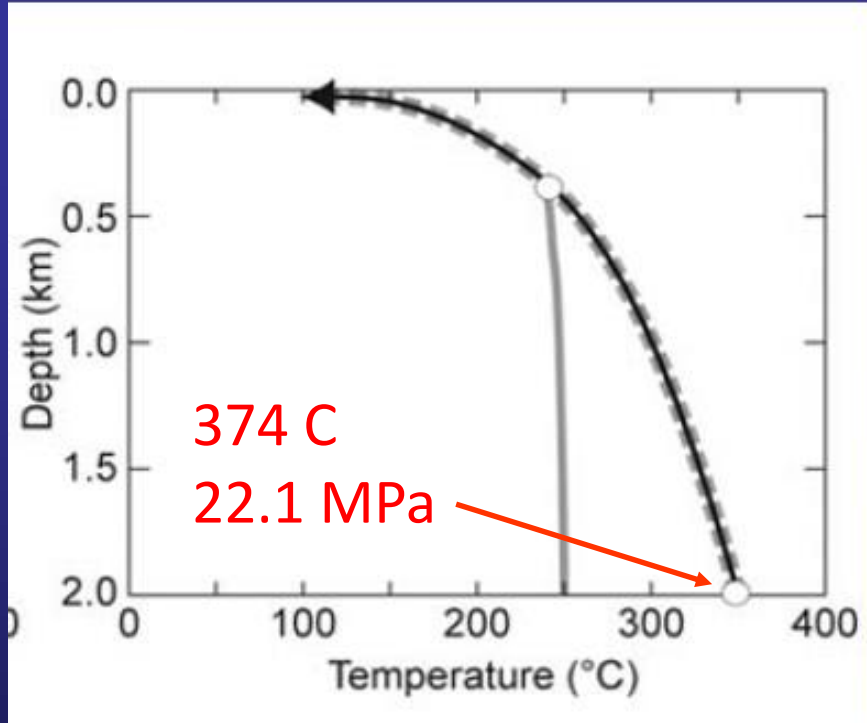
D

Clauser & Huenges 1995

- Within the temperature range of hydrothermal systems, moduli are temperature dependent
- Thermal conductivity of (dry) rocks decrease with increasing temperature

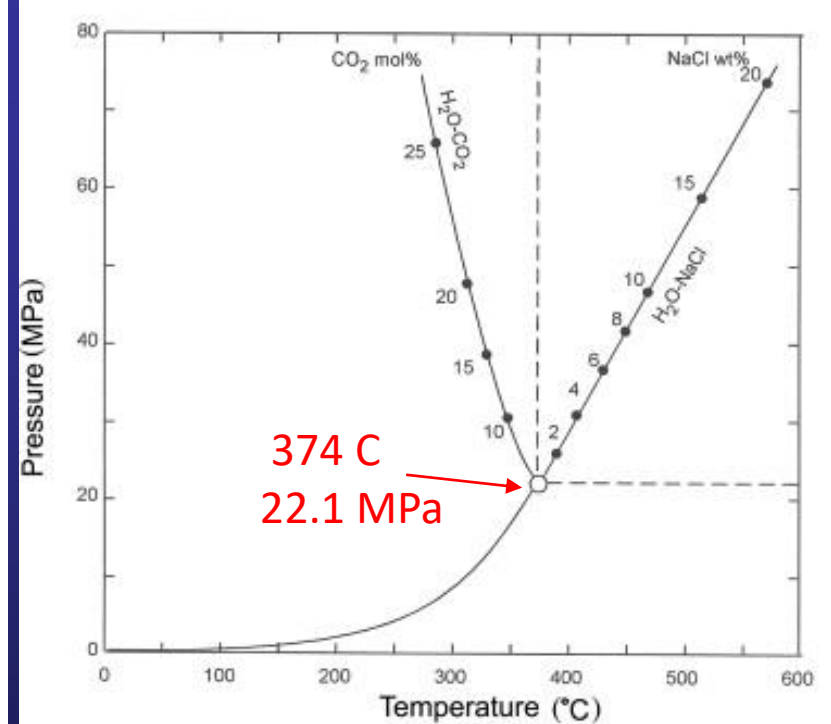
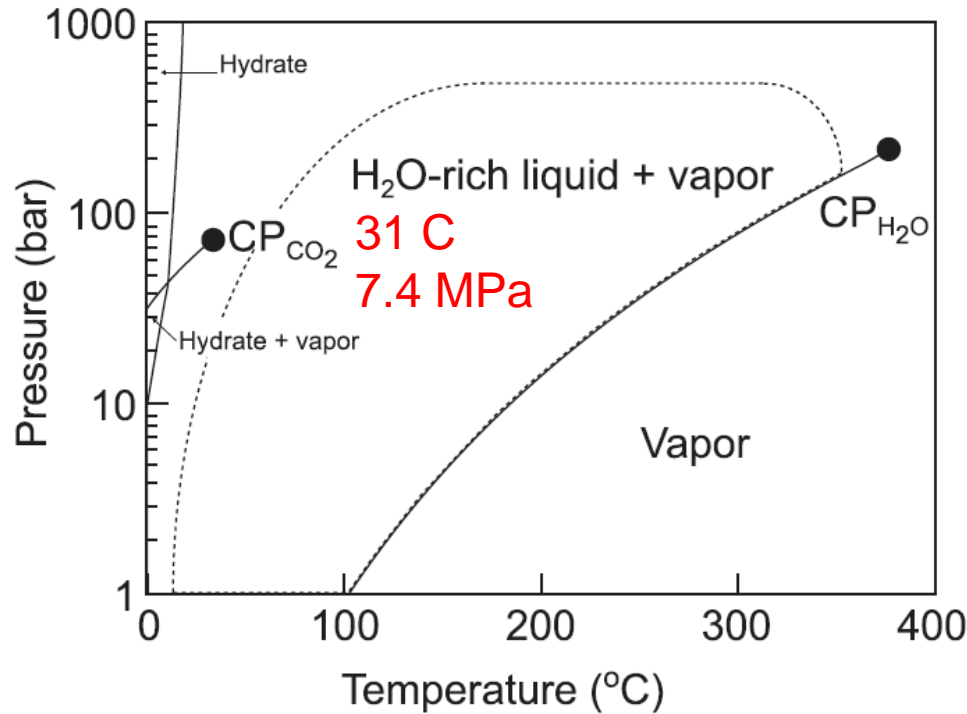
Fluid properties in continental hydrothermal systems

Thermodynamic properties of pure water



- At the **critical point** the properties of steam and liquid water merge
- **P-T diagrams** do not show details of the phase relations of the two-phase region
- In **pressure-enthalpy diagrams**, the mass fraction of each phase can be determined by the lever rule

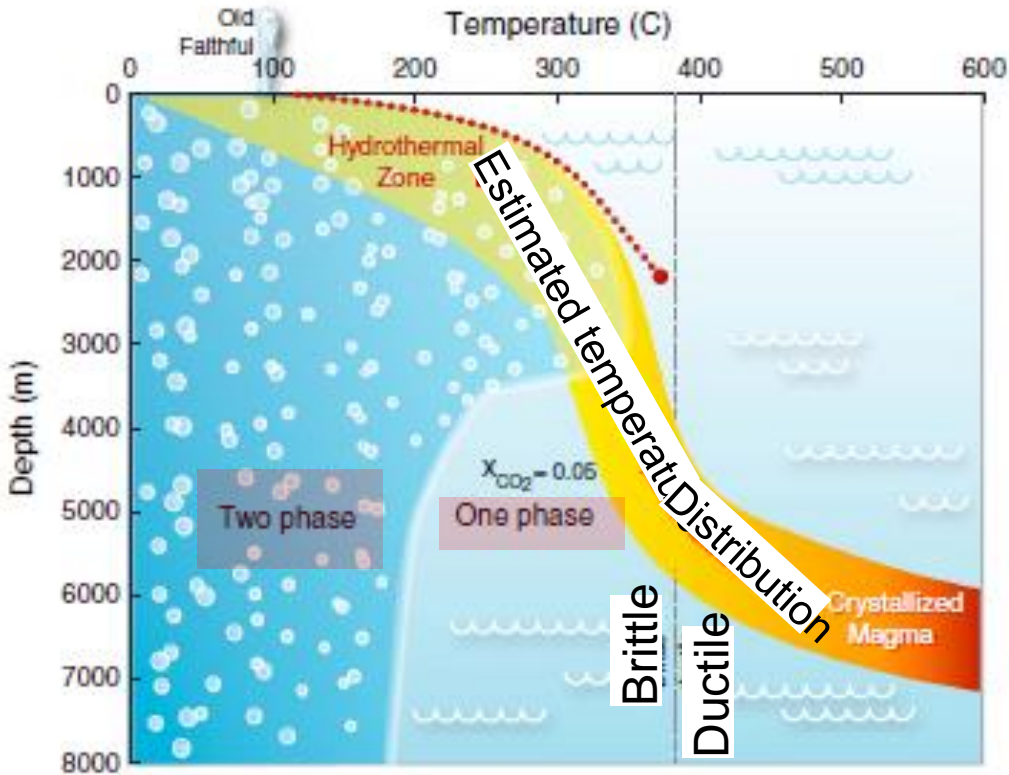
Multicomponent and multiphase fluids



Hutnak et al. JGR 2009

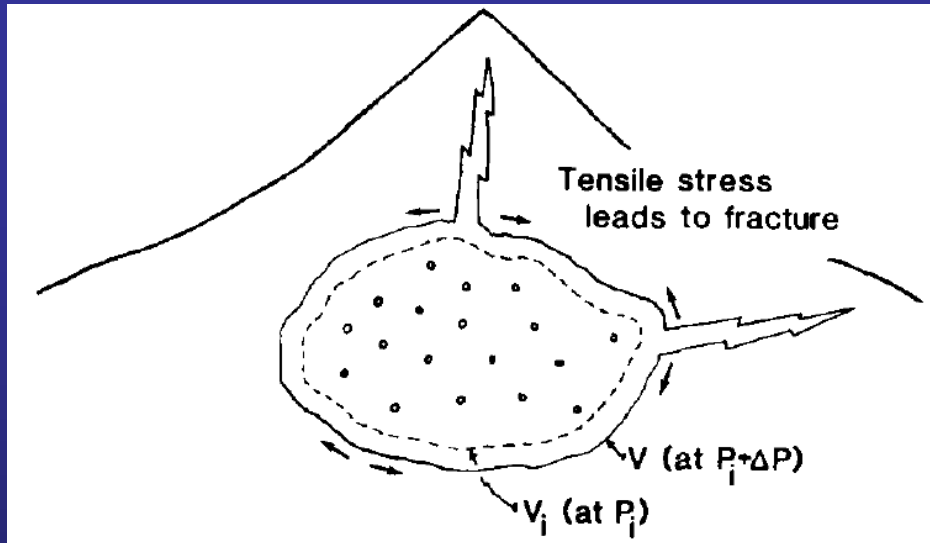
- In $\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{CO}_2$ mixtures single and multiphase gas-rich and liquid-rich fluids exist over a range of P,T
- Dissolved salt increases the P,T of the critical point whereas dissolved gas reduces T and elevates P of the critical point

Phase distribution in Yellowstone's hydrothermal System



- The high CO₂ flux requires a mixed steam–CO₂ vapor phase in the upper ~4 km
- Vapor saturated conditions affect pressure distribution between magma and the ground surface
- Vapor-dominated reservoirs form above areas of deep boiling and degassing

Multiphase fluid compressibility



Tait et al EPSL 1989

$$\beta = \frac{1}{V} \cdot \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta P}$$

A liquid + steam mixture in porous media is more compressible than a single phase (steam or liquid)]

At 250 °C

$\beta_t = 0.9 \text{ bar}^{-1}$ (steam + liquid)

$\beta_s = 0.03 \text{ bar}^{-1}$ (steam)

$\beta_l = 1.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ bar}^{-1}$ (liquid)

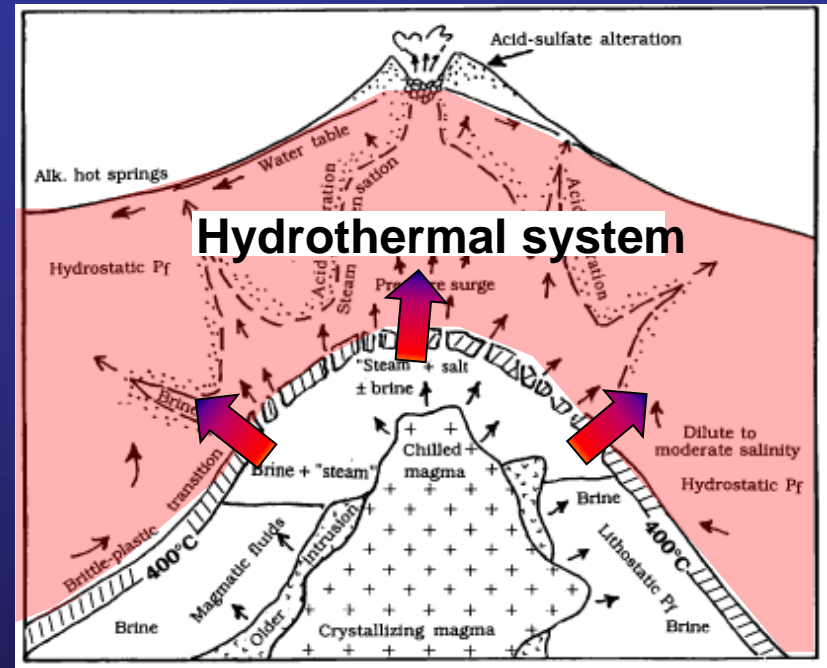
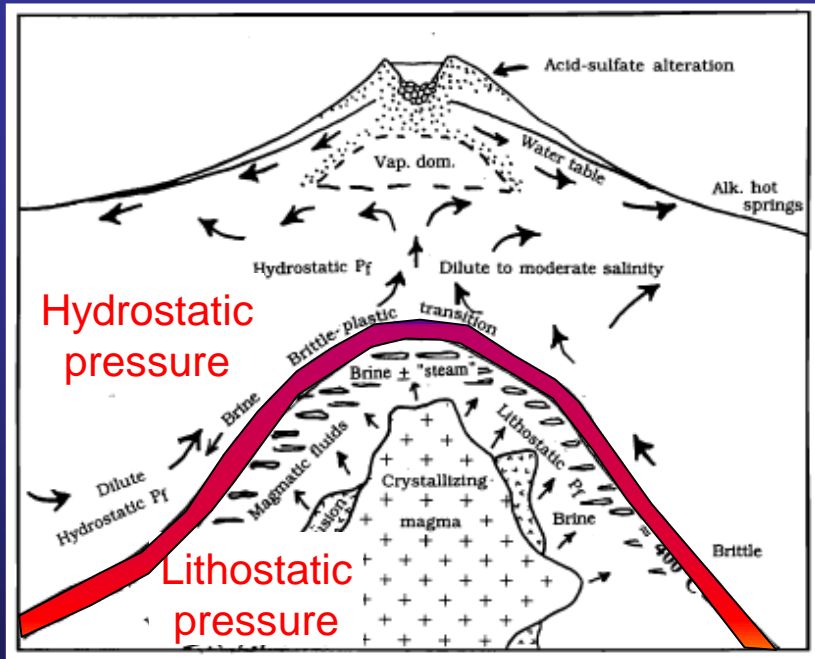
Summary - rock and fluid properties

- **Permeability varies by ~17 orders of magnitude in nature**
- **Low-permeability layers can lead to anomalously high pressures**
- **Permeability is highly transient and is modified by earthquakes and precipitation and dissolution reactions**
- **Moduli and thermal conductivity are temperature dependent**
- **In H₂O-CO₂ mixtures single and multiphase gas-rich and liquid-rich fluids exist over a large P,T range**
- **Dissolved salts increase the pressure and temperature of the critical point whereas CO₂ reduces the temperature of the critical point**
- **The compressibility of a liquid + steam mixture is high**

Putting it all together:

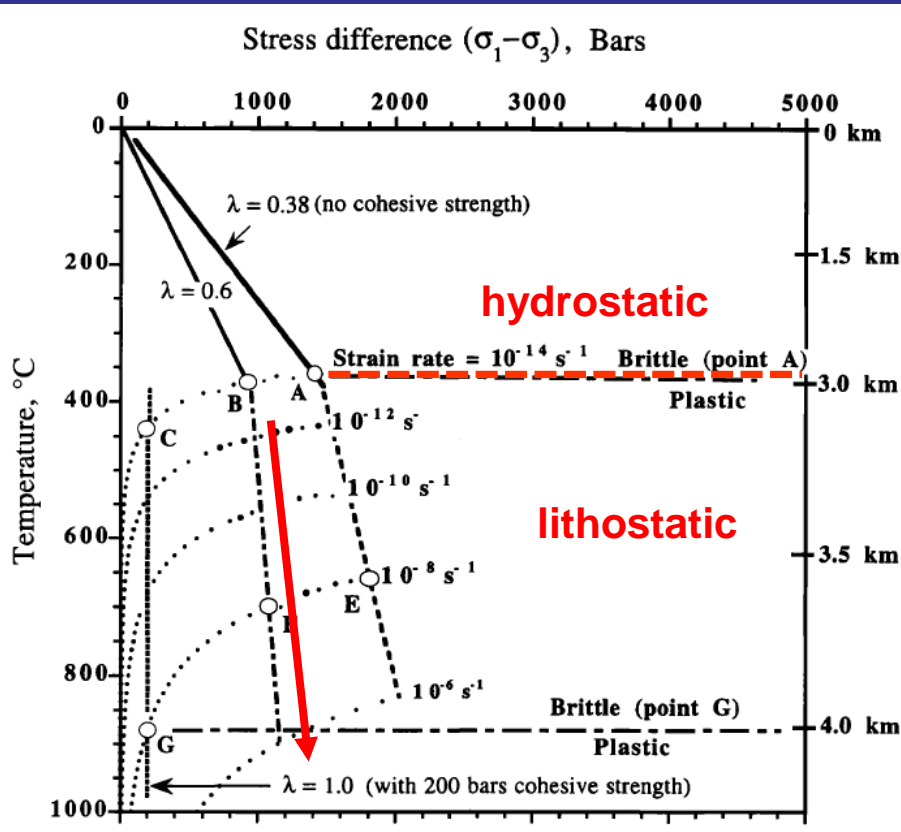
Heat and volatile
transport from magma
to the ground surface

Heat and volatile transport from magma to the hydrothermal System



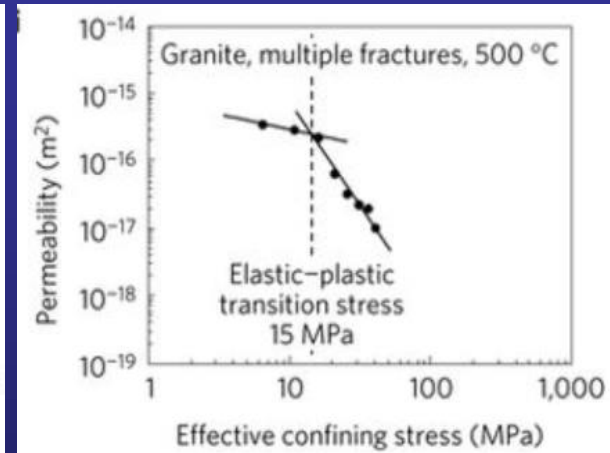
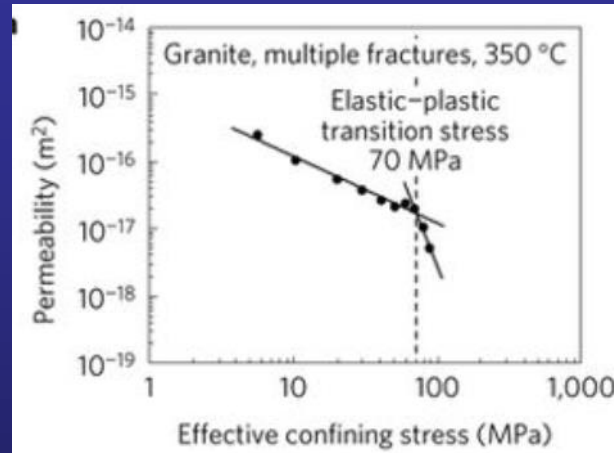
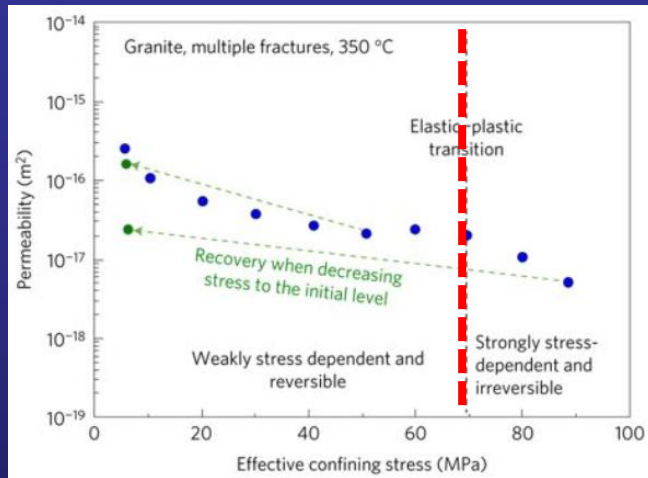
- The brittle-ductile transition (BDTZ) coincides with a thin (<100 m) conductive boundary layer (CBL) with a thickness proportional to the heat flux across it
- Episodic breach of the BDTZ – transport of magmatic volatiles and heat
- As magma cools, the CBL migrates downward - deeper hydrothermal circulation

Mechanics of the BDTZ



- Ductile and low permeability rocks below the BDTZ & brittle rocks above
- The BDTZ is assumed at $\sim 400^{\circ}\text{C}$. Coincides with the maximum temperature of MOR vents, geothermal wells and minimum SiO_2 solubility
- Can range from 260°C for wet quartz to $\sim 700^{\circ}\text{C}$ for dry OPX
- **A strain rate increase can cause ductile rocks to become brittle and undergo shear failure**

Permeability of fractured granite as a function of confining stress



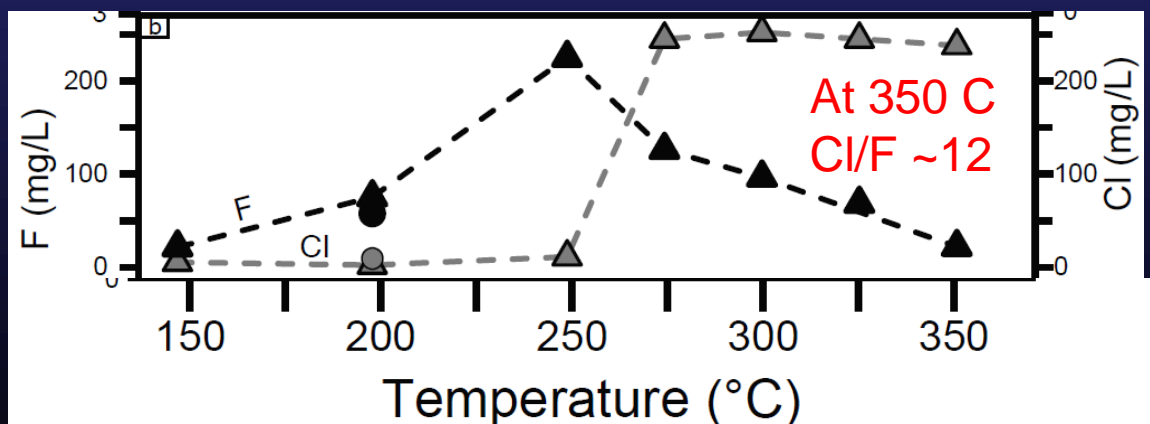
- BDTZ is not the first-order control on rock permeability
- At 350–500 °C, permeability transitions from being weakly stress-dependent and reversible to being strongly stress-dependent and irreversible

Sources and sinks of energy and mass in the hydrothermal system

Volatiles dissolved in magma vs. discharge from the hydrothermal system - sources and sinks

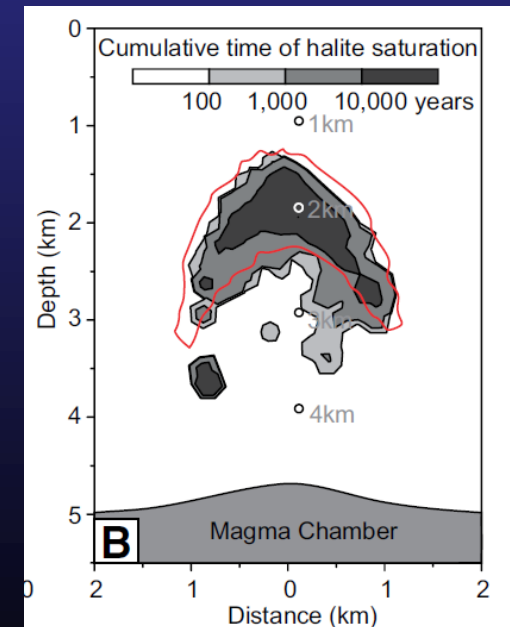
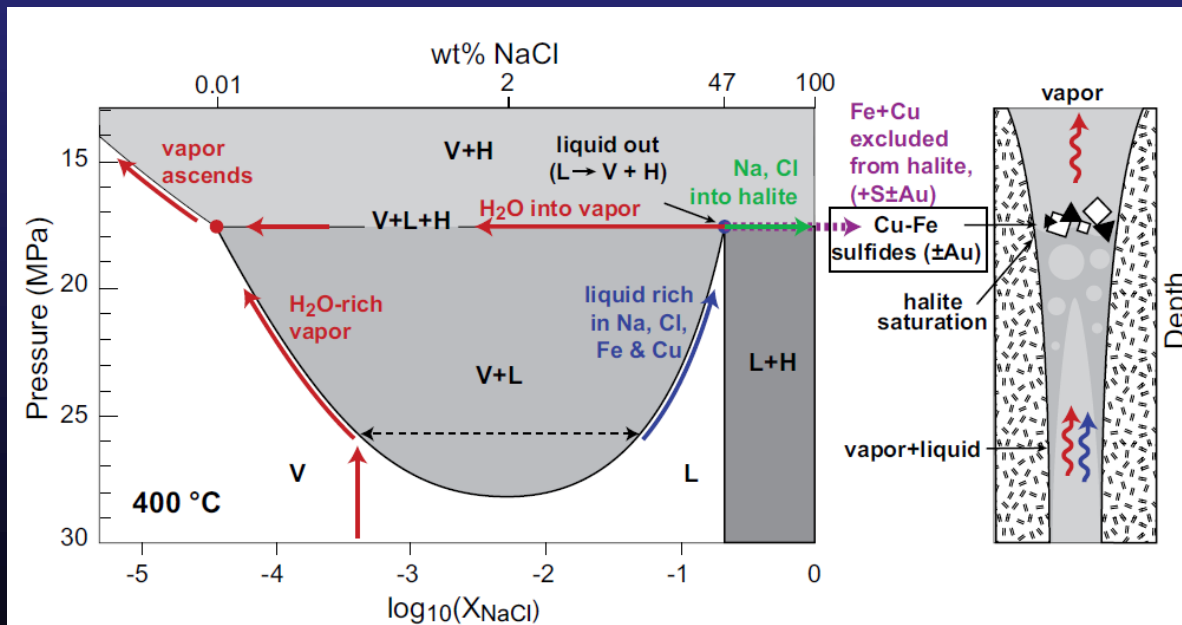
	Riverine Discharge ^a (td ⁻¹)	Diffuse Soil Discharge ^b (td ⁻¹)	Rhyolitic Melt Inclusions ^c (ppm)
CO ₂	546	7,000-33,000	<400
S	56	58-275	<100
Cl	139	-	1,100
F	18	-	2,000
Cl/F	~8		~0.5

- Large sink of F or source of Cl in the shallow crust



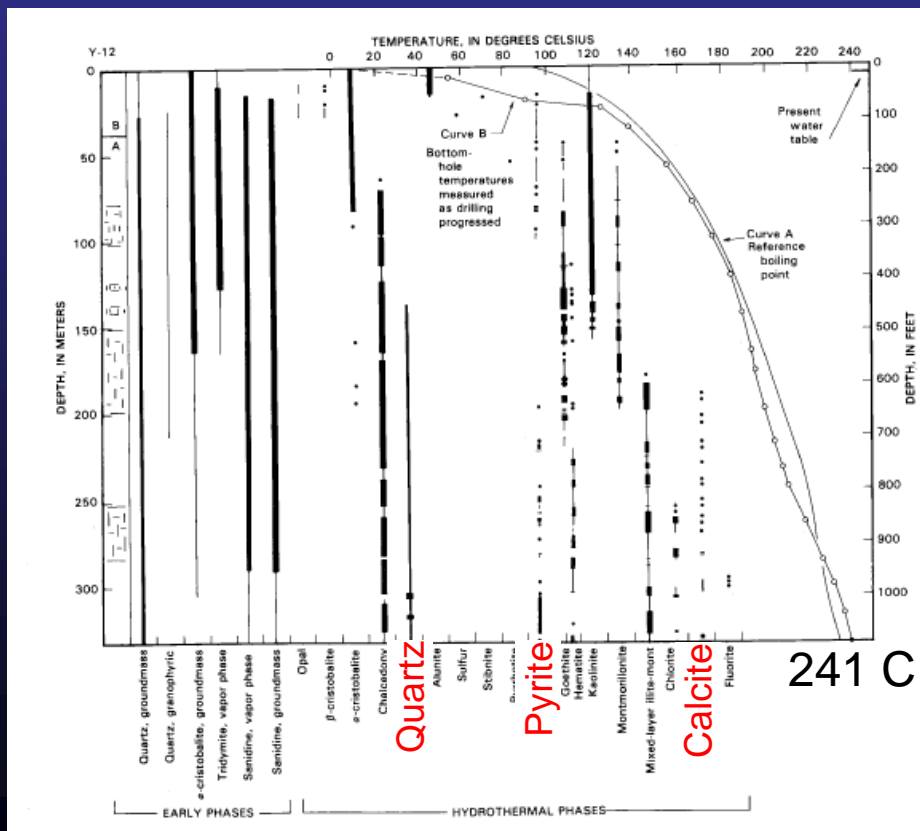
Halite precipitation and mineralization

- Saline fluids ascending from plutons undergo phase separation into high salinity brine and low salinity vapor
- Fluid inclusion from porphyry deposits contain evidence for solid salt (halite) precipitation from ore-forming solutions
- Salt precipitation changes the permeability of the system



Hydrothermal rock alteration

- Replacement of high-temperature glass and primary minerals with secondary minerals resulting from reaction with volatile-rich fluids
- Can be a **sink or source** for some volatiles and cations modifying the composition of the residual fluid

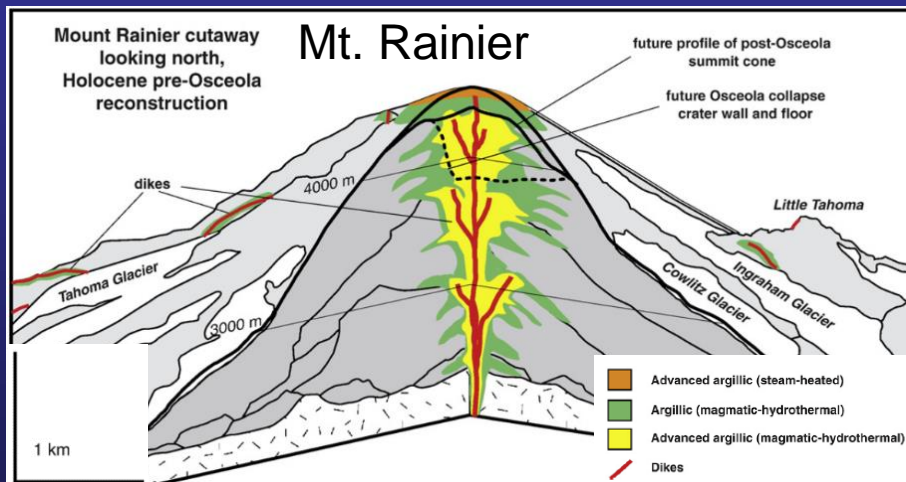


Y-12, Norris Geyser Basin
Yellowstone



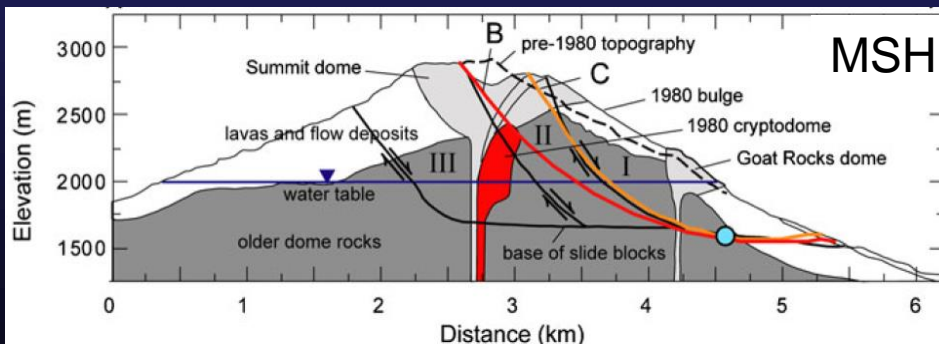
Flank collapse of hydrothermally altered rocks

- More than 200 steep stratovolcanoes collapsed in historical times
- Rock shear strength is decreased by acid sulfate-argillic alteration



John et al JVGR 2008

Large flank collapses of weak, hydrothermally altered parts of Mt. Rainier generated far-traveled lahars in the Holocene



Reid et al BV 2010

The 1980 failure shear surfaces were not localized in weak altered rocks, but primarily in pervasively shattered older dome rocks

Water and gas geothermometry

What are the equilibrium temperatures of water-rock reactions?

“Classical” geothermometers are based on the concentration of dissolved silica (SiO₂) in equilibrium with silica polymorphs or on the ratios of cations in equilibrium with feldspar

Geothermometer	Equation	Reference
SiO ₂ (adiabatic)	$T^{\circ} = [1522 / (5.75 - \log_{10}(\text{SiO}_2))] - 273.15$	Foumier (1977)
SiO ₂ (conductive)	$T = [1309 / (5.19 - \log_{10}(\text{SiO}_2))] - 273.15$	Foumier (1977)
Na-K	$T = [1217 / (1.438 + \log_{10}(\text{Na} / \text{K}))] - 273.15$	Foumier (1979)
Na-K	$T = [1390 / (1.438 + \log_{10}(\text{Na} / \text{K}))] - 273.15$	Giggenbech (1988)
Na-Li	$T = [1195 / (0.130 + \log_{10}(\text{Na} / \text{Li}))] - 273.15$	Fouillac and Michard (1981)
Na-K-Ca	$T = [1647 / (\log_{10}(\text{Na} / \text{K}) + \beta[\log_{10}((\text{Ca} / \text{Na})^{1/2}) + 2.06] + 2.47)] - 273.15$ ($\beta = 4/3$ for $T < 100$; $\beta = 1/3$ for $T > 100$)	Foumier and Truesdell (1973)

^a Temperature (T) in °C.

Gas geothermometry

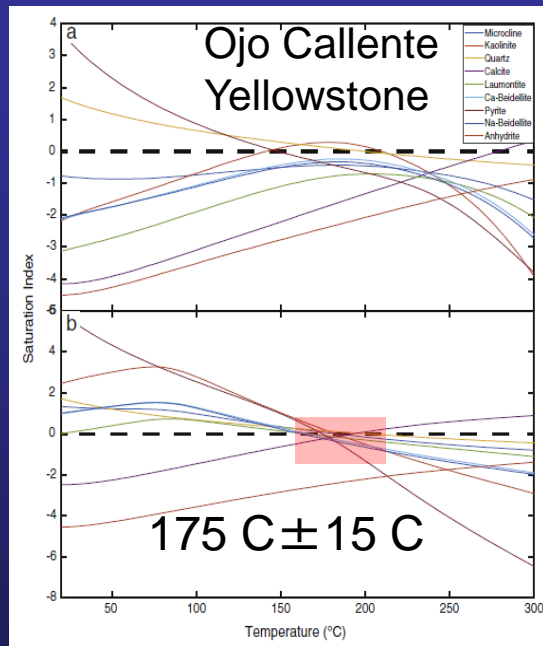
$$t^{\circ}\text{C} = \frac{24775}{\alpha + \beta + 36.05} - 273$$

$$\alpha = 2 \log \frac{\text{CH}_4}{\text{CO}_2} - 6 \log \frac{\text{H}_2}{\text{CO}_2} - 3 \log \frac{\text{H}_2\text{S}}{\text{CO}_2}$$

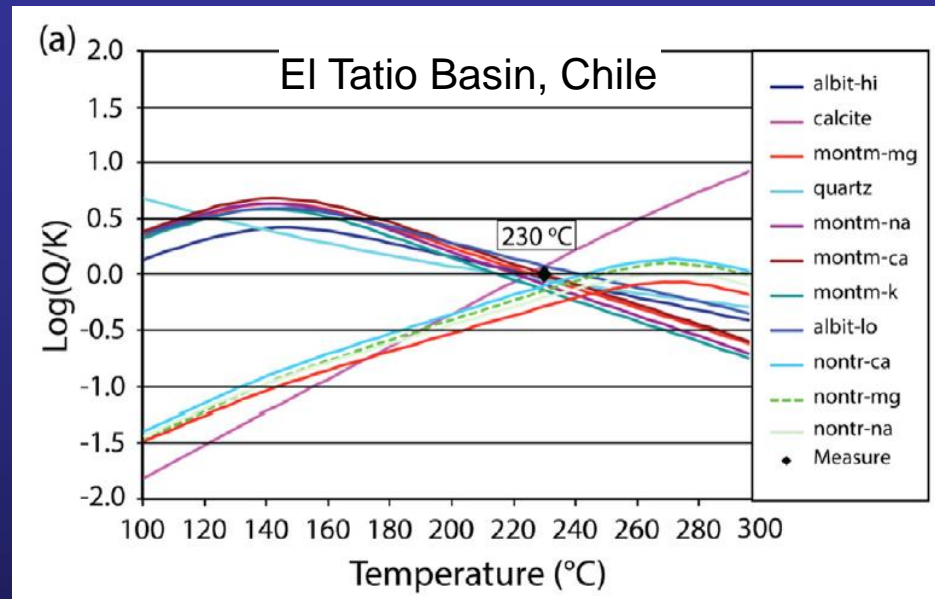
$$\beta = 7 \log P_{\text{CO}_2}$$

Based on the concentration and thermodynamic equilibrium of gas species

Thermodynamic models of fluid-mineral equilibria



King et al, JVGR 2016

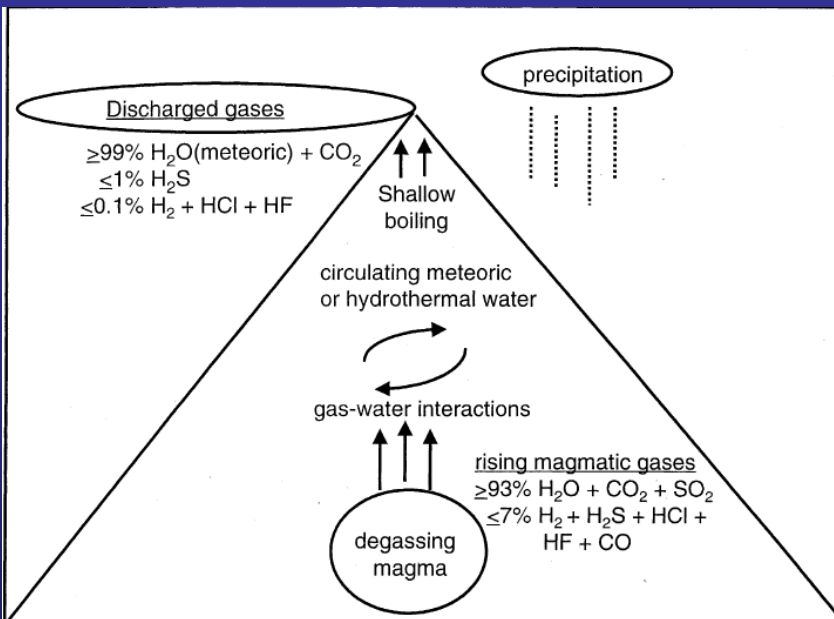


Munoz-Saez et al, JVGR 2018

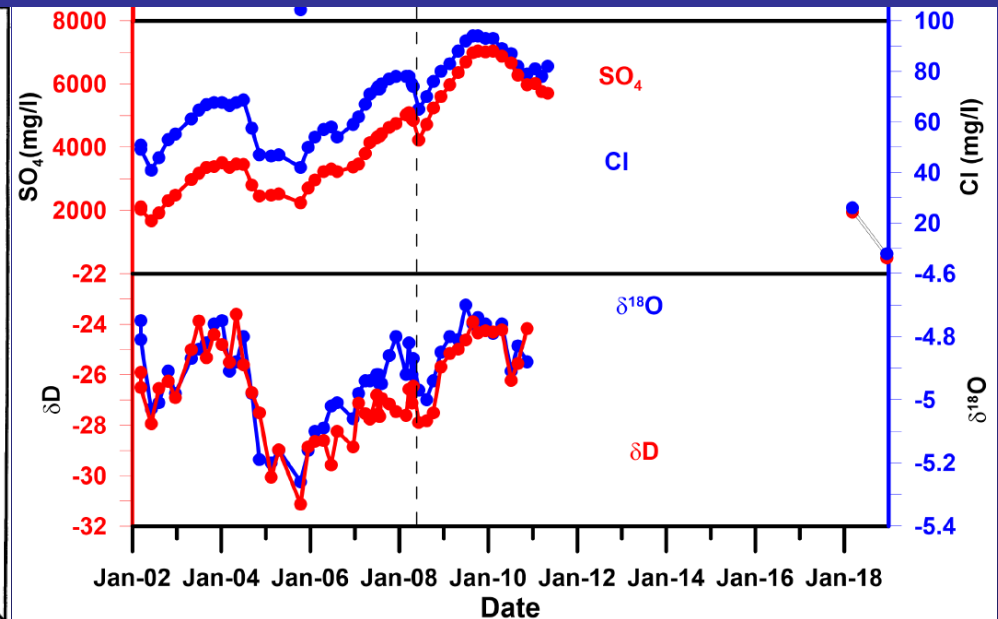
- Use thermodynamic databases to calculate saturation indices for a selected set of minerals over a range of temperatures
- Input includes water chemistry, mineral assemblage and estimates of P_{CO_2}
- Available codes - Geochemist's Workbench (commercial), PHREEQC (USGS), iGeoT (LBNL)

Scrubbing of magmatic gases

Keller Well, Kilauea



Symonds et al., JVGR 2001



Hurwitz et al., USGS 2019

- Scrubbing will prevent significant SO₂ and most HCl emissions until a dry pathway to the atmosphere is established
- SO₄²⁻ and Cl⁻ in groundwater increased as a result of scrubbing until the opening of the 2008 vent

Conversion of thermal energy into kinetic and mechanical energy

- Hydrothermal explosions - phreatic eruptions
- Geyser eruptions

Bull Volcanol (1995) 57:85–98

ORIGINAL PAPER

L. G. Mastin

Thermodynamics of gas and steam-blast eruptions

GEOLOGIC NOZZLES

Susan Werner Kieffer
*U. S. Geological Survey
Flagstaff, Arizona*

ROG 1989

Thermodynamics and Mass Transport in Multicomponent, Multiphase H₂O Systems of Planetary Interest

Xinli Lu and Susan W. Kieffer

Department of Geology, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801;
email: xinlilu@uiuc.edu, skieffer@uiuc.edu

AREPS 2009

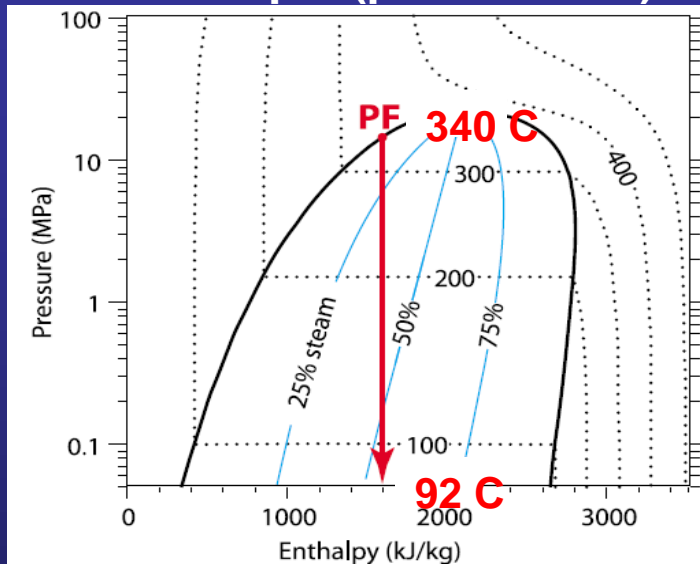
JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 114, B05205, doi:10.1029/2008JB005742, 2009

Explosive properties of water in volcanic and hydrothermal systems

R. Thiéry¹ and L. Mercury²

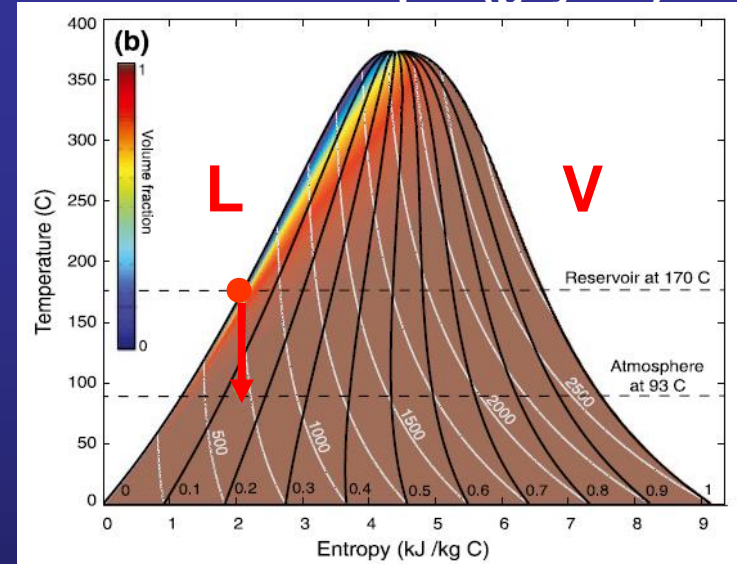
Adiabatic fluid decompression

Ienthalpic (porous flow)



Hurwitz et al. JGR 2012

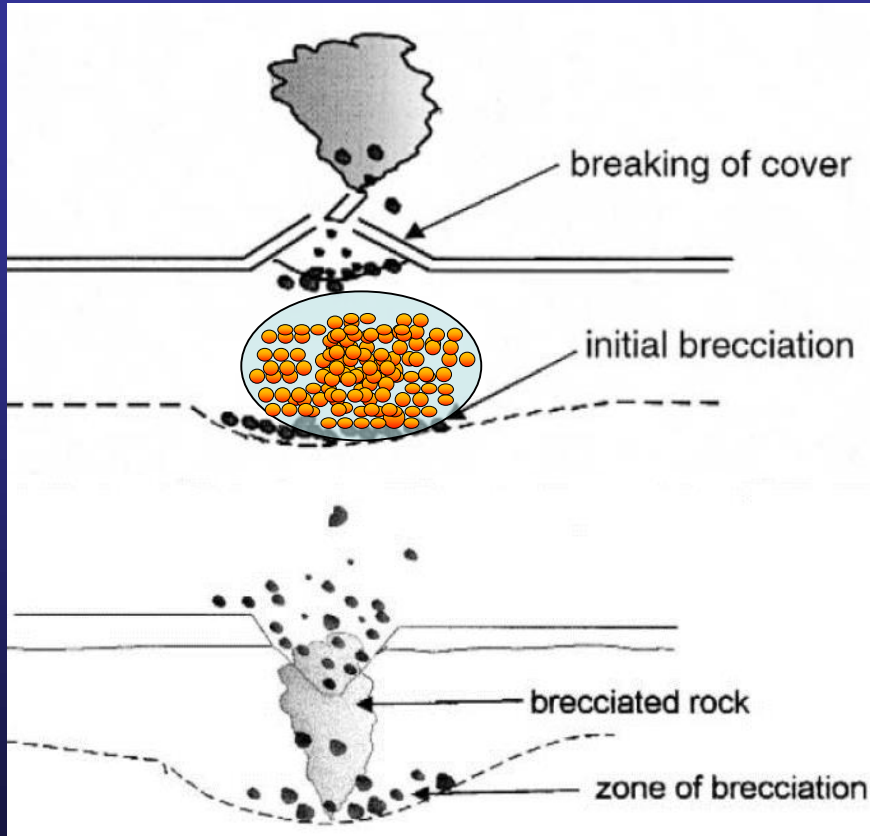
Ientropic (geyser)



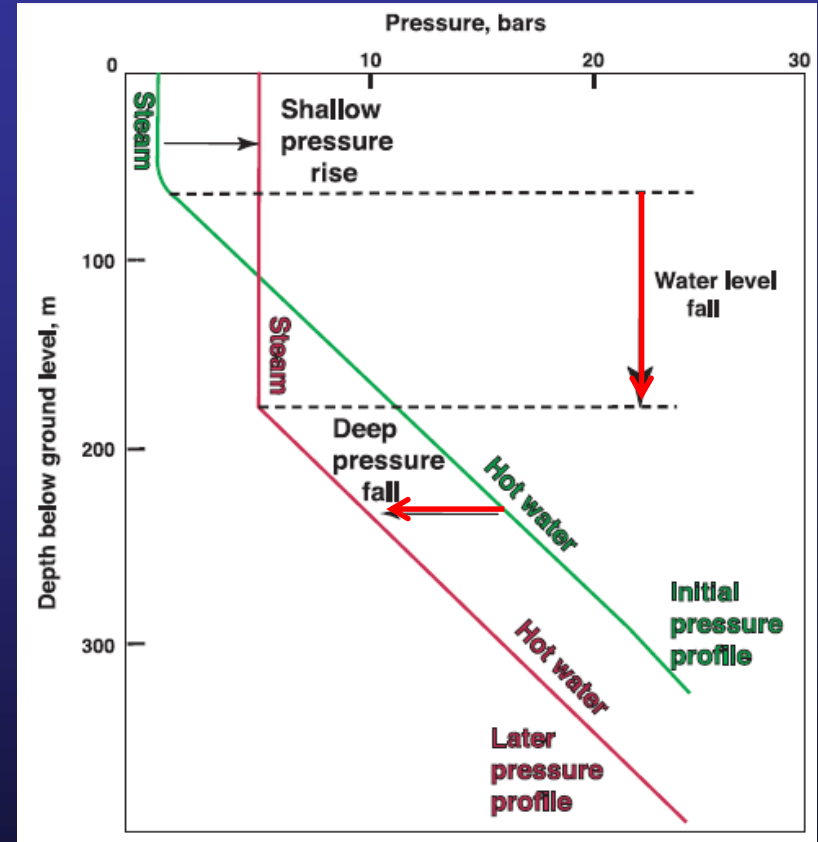
Karlstrom et al. JGR 2013

- **Ienthalpic** - all acceleration is converted to heat by internal shearing and friction – assumed for flow in porous media but not for flow in conduits (geysers)
- **Ientropic** - maximum energy available for expansion and acceleration. Valid for geysers and eruptions.

Hydrothermal explosions - phreatic eruptions



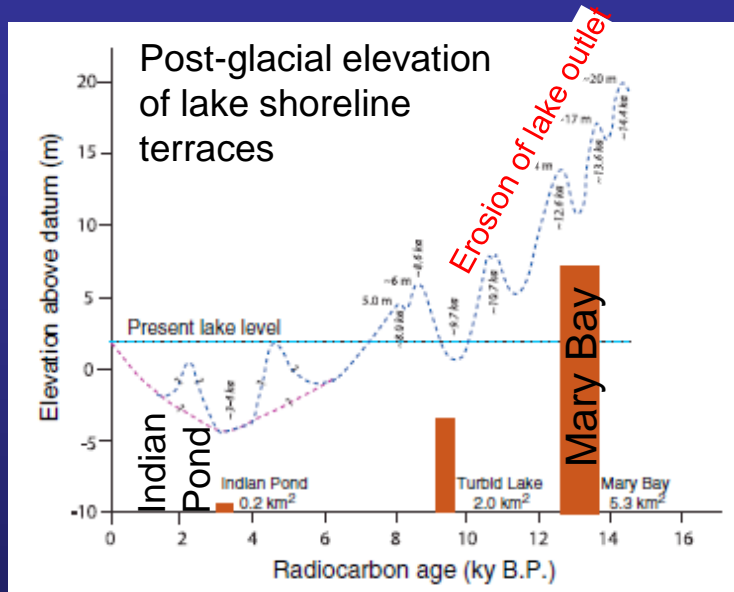
Browne & Lowless, 2001



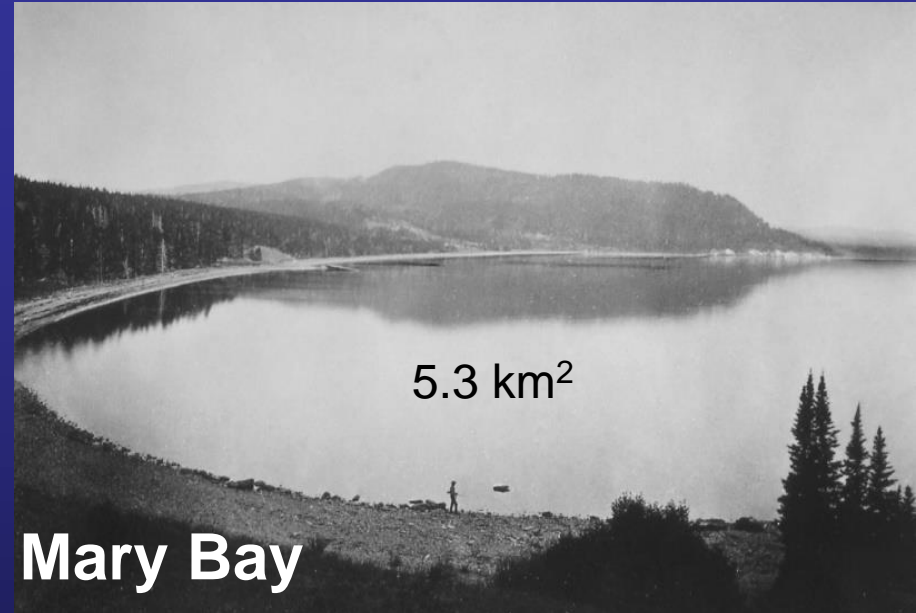
Bargar & Fournier, 1988

Decompression and vertical shift of boiling-curve – flash to steam

Hydrothermal explosions following deglaciation in Yellowstone



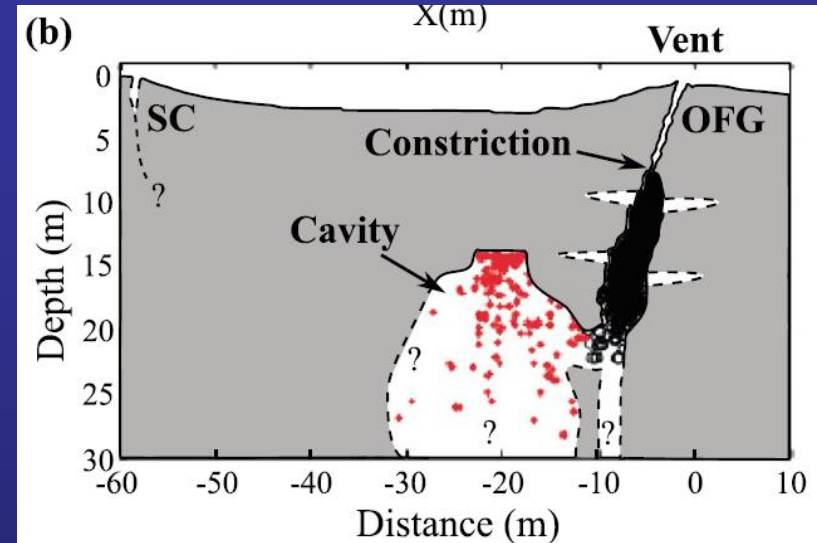
Pearce et al. USGS OFR 2004



- Most of Yellowstone was covered by an ice cap <1,200 m thick
- Following the retreat of the last ice cap, pressure in the system decreased substantially, leading to extensive boiling
- Ejecta (mostly breccia) was found 3-4 km from the largest craters

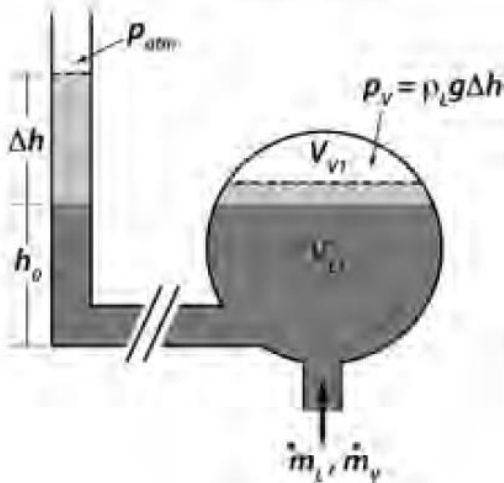
Geyser eruptions and reservoirs

Old Faithful



Vandemeulebrouck et al GRL 2013

Vapor compression



- Lateral shallow subsurface reservoirs accumulate thermal energy that is episodically discharged
- Seismic sources are produced by bubble cavitation in subsurface lateral reservoirs and the conduit

Vandemeulebrouck et al JGR 2014

Steamboat geyser, Yellowstone NP



Insights gleaned from geyser studies could be used to improve the interpretation of signals recorded at volcanoes (Kieffer, 1984)

Summary - heat and volatile transport from magma to the surface

- **Hydrothermal rock alteration** - a sink or source for elements and volatiles
- **Acid-sulfate alteration** decreases the shear strength of rocks **Scrubbing** remove SO_2 and most HCl from gas emissions
- **Hydrothermal explosions and geyser eruptions** are manifestations of thermal energy conversion of into kinetic and mechanical energy
- **Mass unloading from Earth's surface** (deglaciation) can cause liquid water flashing to steam
- Subsurface **geyser reservoirs** offset from the conduit accumulate thermal energy that is episodically discharged

Numerical modeling of volcano hydrothermal systems

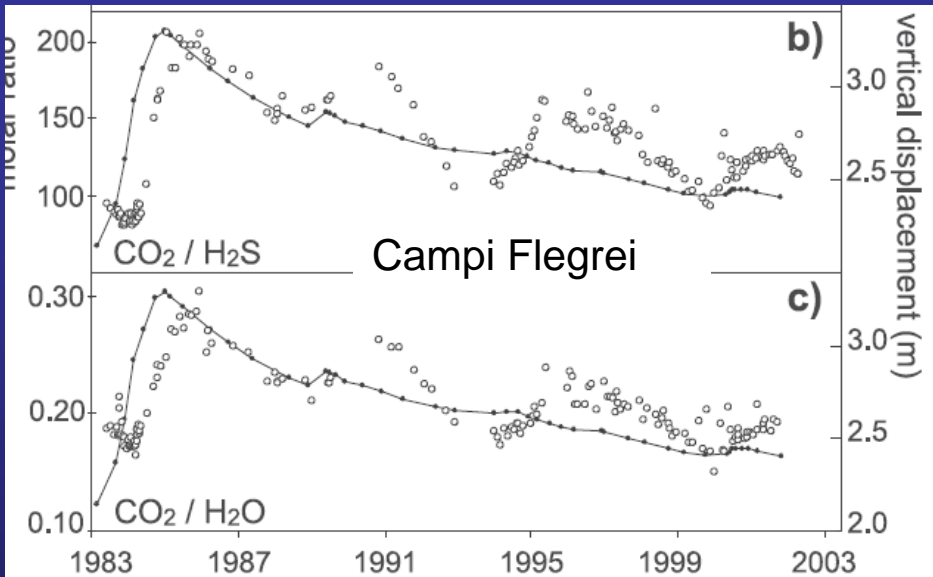
Numerical modeling of volcano hydrothermal systems

- Numerical simulators use mathematical formulations of Darcy's Law for multiphase groundwater flow in porous media
- The simulators have different capabilities and different numerical schemes
- Many unconstrained variables – **non-unique results**

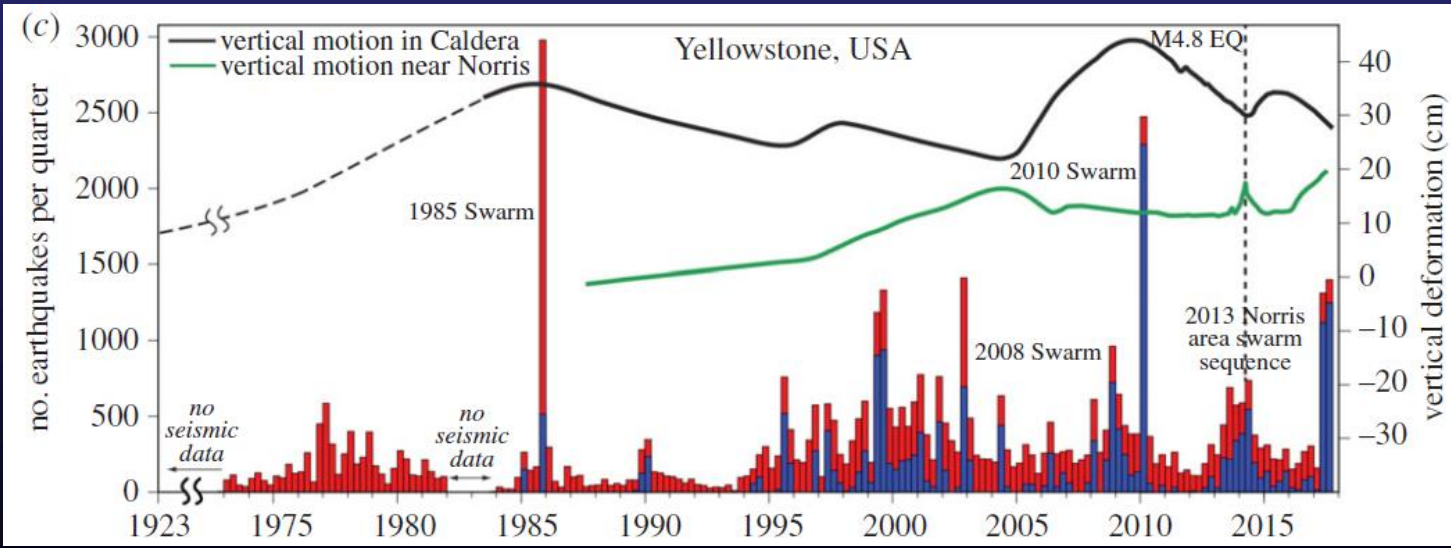
Name	Reference	T_{\max} (°C)	P_{\max} (MPa)	Numerical Method	Reactive Transport	Deformation	CO ₂	NaCl
CSMP++	<i>Matthäi et al.</i> [2007] and <i>Coumou</i> [2008]	1000	500	FE-FV				X
FEHM	<i>Zyvoloski et al.</i> [1988, 1997], <i>Bower and Zyvoloski</i> [1997], <i>Dutrow et al.</i> [2001], and <i>Keating et al.</i> [2002]	1500		FE	X	X	X	
FISHES ^b	<i>Lewis</i> [2007] and <i>Lewis and Lowell</i> [2009a]	800	1000	FV				X
HYDROTHERM	<i>Hayba and Ingebritsen</i> [1994] and <i>Kipp et al.</i> [2008]	1,00	1000	FD				
NaCl-TOUGH2	<i>Kissling</i> [2005b]	620	100	IFD				X
TOUGH2	<i>Pruess</i> [1991] and <i>Pruess et al.</i> [1999]	350	100	IFD			X	X
TOUGH2-BIOT	<i>Hurwitz et al.</i> [2007]	350	100	IFD-FE		X	X	
TOUGH-FLAC	<i>Rutqvist et al.</i> [2002]	350	100	IFD-FE		X	X	
TOUGHREACT	<i>Xu et al.</i> [2004b]	350	100	IFD	X		X	

Deformation of large calderas

- What drives deformation?
- How are subsidence and episodic deformation explained?
- Are pressures transients within the hydrothermal system sufficient for deforming rocks?

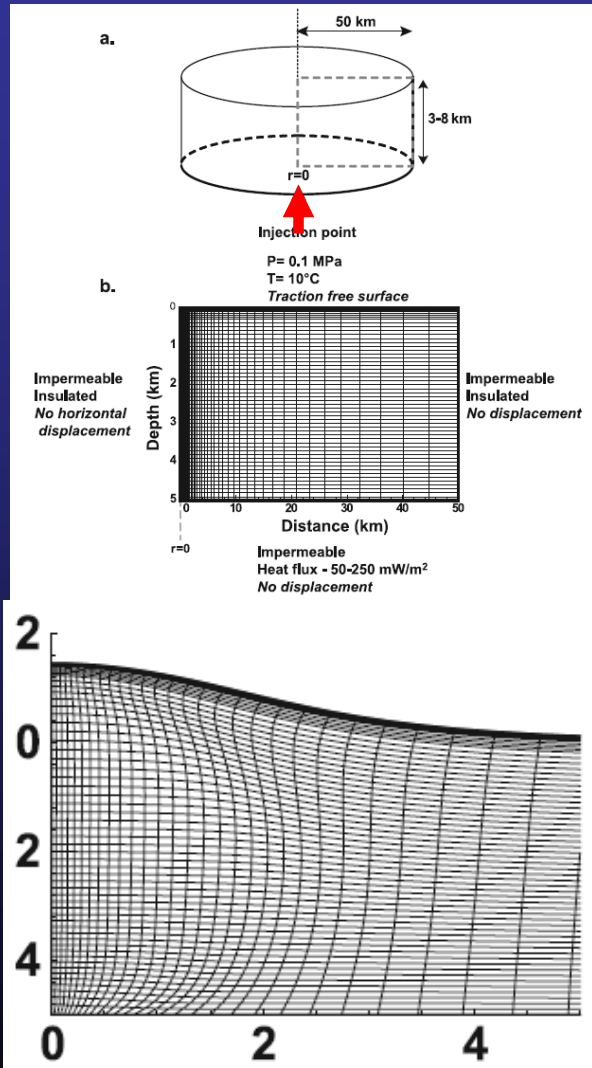


Chiodini et al. GRL 2003



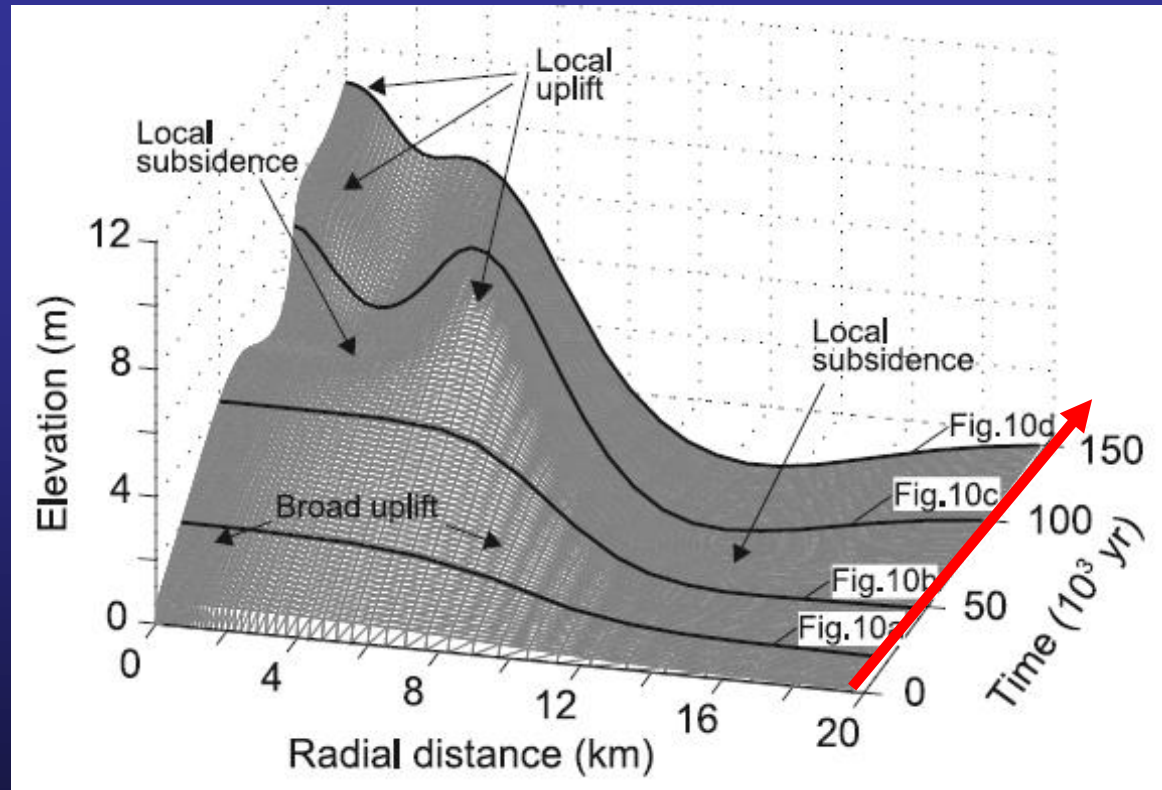
Jamie Farrell in Pritchard et al. 2019

Simulating hydrothermal deformations of calderas



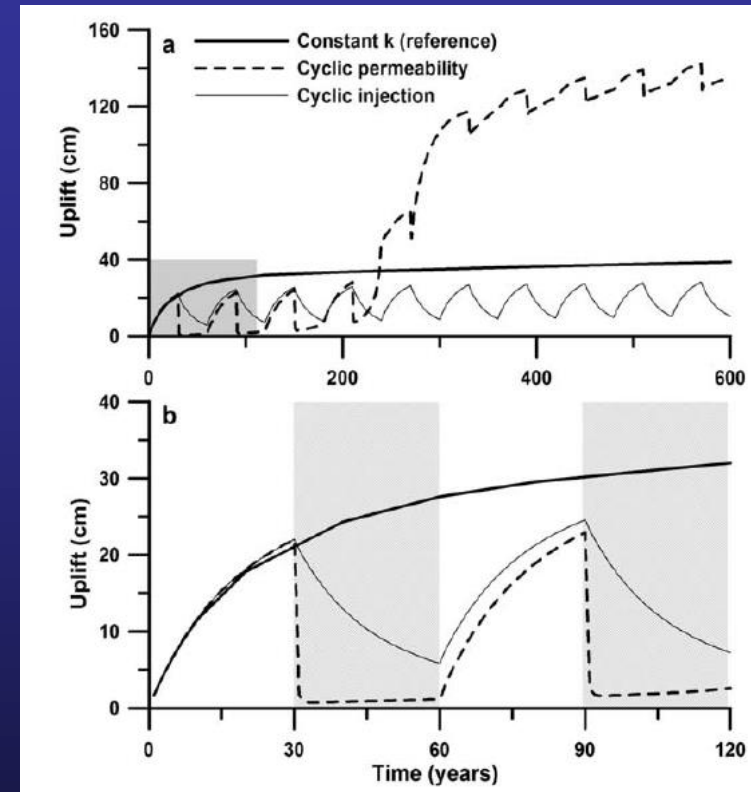
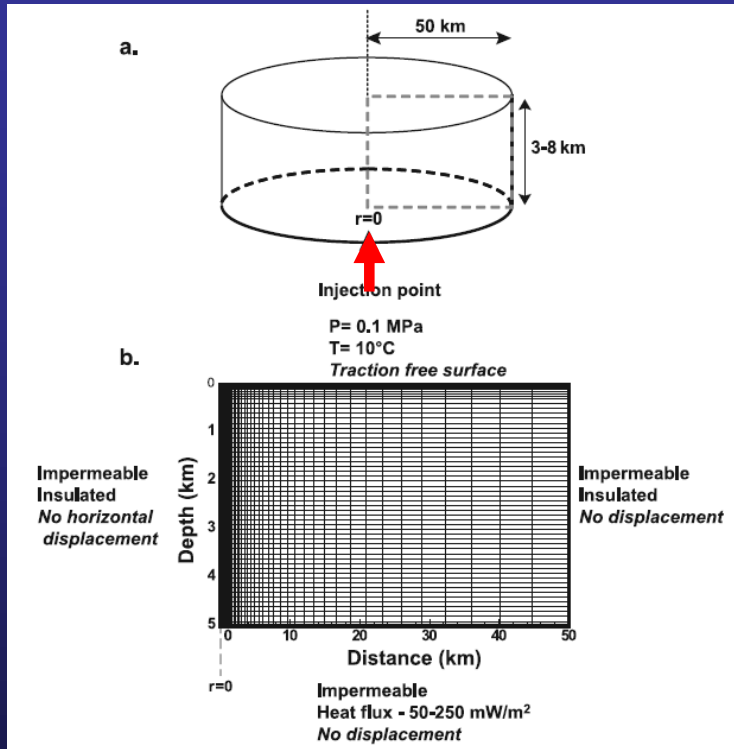
- Coupling of **TOUGH2** (multiphase groundwater flow) and **BIOT2** (deformation in a elastic porous medium)
- high-temperature water and CO_2 (350°C) are injected at variable rates
- **Variables** - permeability and its anisotropy, the depth and rate of hydrothermal injection, shear modulus
- A range of deformation patterns and rates of vertical displacements were simulated

Simulating hydrothermal deformations of calderas



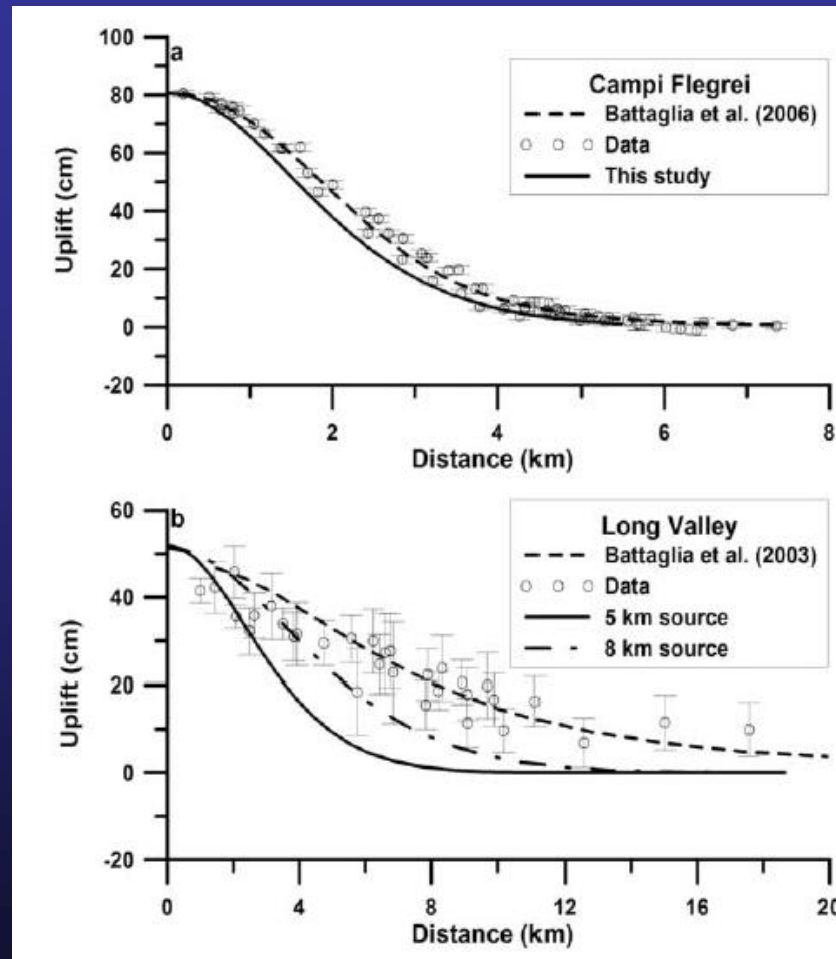
Multicomponent ($\text{H}_2\text{O}-\text{CO}_2$) fluids generate more complex, temporally and spatially varying patterns of deformation

Simulating hydrothermal deformations of calderas



- **Cyclic deformation patterns** result from variable fluid injection rates at the base and from transient (cyclic) permeability
- Subsidence was simulated by terminating fluid injection and by increasing the permeability after uplift occurred

Can caldera deformation be attributed to hydrothermal dynamics?



Some of the simulated uplift rates are similar to measured rates in large calderas



**VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS
AND THEIR REPOSE,
UNREST,
PRECURSORS,
AND TIMING**

V. 2.0

*1. Forecast the onset, size, duration, and hazard of eruptions by integrating observations with quantitative models of magma **and hydrothermal** dynamics.*

Drill, drill, drill...



Lab experiments...



Challenges and open questions

- Can we distinguish between magmatic and hydrothermal drivers of deformation?
- How do we interpret broadband seismic signals with multiple spectral peaks?
- Can we map the 3-D distribution of acid-sulfate alteration and liquid saturation distribution in deep stratovolcanoes?
- Can we identify precursory signals to phreatic eruptions?
- Are seismic swarms in the upper crust associated with pulses of heat and mass transport from depth?
- What are the rates of water-gas-rock reactions? How do these rates control permeability and heat and mass transport to the surface?